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## Auditor shows concern over shipbuilding

AG report suggests navy may not get the warships they want **PAGE 3**

## 'A game of high stakes'

Rogers signs 12-year deal with NHL, pays mega bucks to skate past CBC, TSN for multimedia hockey rights **PAGE 14**

## WE DAY COMES TO HALIFAX

ANNUAL FREE THE CHILDREN FEST AIMED AT INSPIRING YOUTH TO ACTION **PAGES 12-13**

# HRM ready for rebranding

**Local lead.** Revolve CEO says lots of input from residents key to developing, shaping final look

### Soul searching

**"It's really going through a process to identify the soul of the region. You can't fabricate soul. It's there, we need to find it and shine a light on it."**

Phil Otto, CEO of Revolve Branding

The head of the firm that will carry out HRM's rebranding says the process is about more than developing a slogan.

"The last thing is a logo and a slogan," said Revolve Branding CEO Phil Otto. "This is about a sense of being and a sense of place and messaging that's going to go a lot deeper than just a positioning statement."

Halifax regional council awarded a \$217,000 contract to Revolve Tuesday for a rebranding exercise that will include a significant public consultation component.

HRM's managing director of corporate communications said the Bedford-based firm edged out three other finalists that were shortlisted from 11 initial

bidders.

"They best articulated that a place brand isn't something that you go and cook up and try to sell to people," said Bruce DeBaie. "You try to discover that."

Revolve has led rebranding projects for several Nova Scotia municipalities and Otto said the idea is to find a region's "rallying cry."

"What do we want to be known for, internally and externally, within our own citizen group and outside the region as well," he said.

He said the key is talking to residents in malls over Christmas or the Seaport Market on weekends — not by holding town-hall meetings or workshops.

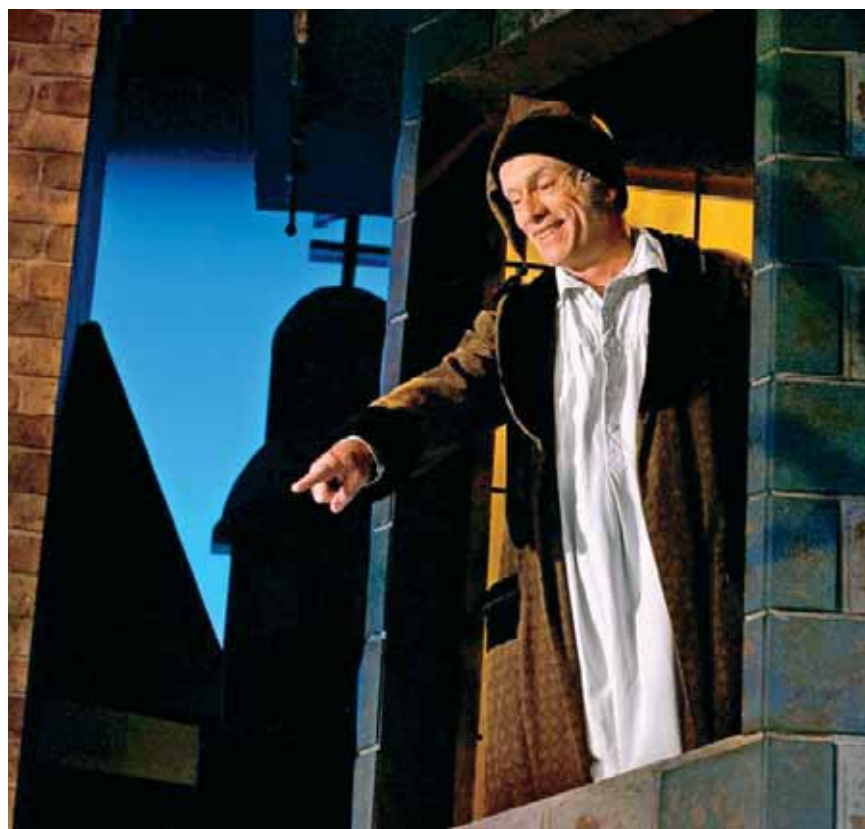
"One of the promises that

we made early on was that every single citizen would have a voice," he said. "We'll find out ... what do you feel this region stands for?"

Details of the bid process — including the name of the winner — were kept confidential until after Tuesday's vote, which DeBaie said was "highly unusual."

A city spokesperson said it was because funding for the project was approved after the bid process was complete.

"If council did not approve the funding, it wouldn't have been fair to the proponents to have those details out in the public without an award to announce," said communications advisor Jennifer Stewart via email. **RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO**



## HOLIDAY SPIRIT(S)

Jon Osbaldeston, as Scrooge, performs a scene from Neptune Theatre's holiday production of *A Christmas Carol* during a media event on Tuesday afternoon. The holiday favourite opens Friday and runs until Dec. 31. Story, page 6. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

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# Ships may not start here as much: Auditor report

## Defence policy.

Canadian navy may be shortchanged on ships because of budget problems, according to Michael Ferguson

Canada's navy may get neither the type nor the number of warships it needs because of the Harper government's budget inflexibility and failure to do its defence-policy homework, Canada's auditor general warns.

Michael Ferguson's latest report examines the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy and the first few projects, which are already in the queue but still in the planning stages.

His report gives the government credit for a smooth, consultative process in establishing the framework arrangement and says oversight mechanisms are in place to protect taxpayers, but suggests the government is being rigid in aspects that could harm the navy over the long term.

"The ships haven't even been designed yet, so it is very early in the process," said Ferguson, who pointed to the current \$26-billion budget to replace the country's existing frigates and destroyers.

"Based on all of the information available right now, it looks like that \$26 billion will be insufficient to acquire 15 ships to replace the existing 15 ships."



Halifax's Irving Shipyard is seen in this file photo. Canada's navy may get neither the type nor the number of warships it needs because of the Harper government's budget inflexibility and failure to do its defence-policy homework, Canada's auditor general warns. JEFF HARPER/METRO

The budgets for the planned frigate replacement and the Conservatives' signature Arctic patrol ship program have not been revised or increased in more than half a decade, despite rising labour and material costs.

As a result, the report says, it's unclear how many ships the strategy will produce, particularly with such cost restrictions in place — meaning the navy could be forced to reduce the fleet size below its needs.

The audit points out that in order to stay within budget, the navy has made capability trade-offs on both

## Quoted



**"As with anything new, there are risks involved and these will need to be closely monitored on an ongoing basis."**

Canada's auditor general Michael Ferguson

the Arctic patrol ships and planned replacements for

## At a glance

- The national shipbuilding strategy, signed October 2011, selected two shipyards as preferred builders for the federal government — the Irving-owned Halifax Shipyard for combat ships, the other

in Vancouver for smaller civilian-grade vessels.

- With that overall agreement signed, it is left up to federal officials to negotiate each ship-construction contract individually.

military supply ships.

Ferguson says the 30-year, \$34-billion strategy requires close monitoring but also budget flexibility.

"While budgets are a useful control, Canada may not get the military ships

it needs if budgets are not subject to change," Ferguson wrote.

The Conservatives have tended to treat "rough estimates" as budget caps, the auditor said.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

1 NEWS



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# Paper to improve divisive school-closure issue released

**How decisions are made.** New provincial government says people's voices will be heard

Nova Scotia's Education Department released a discussion paper Tuesday that floats ideas on how to improve the school-closure process as the provincial government grapples with the problem of aging schools and a declining student population.

The paper says standard indicators would help school boards identify whether schools should close. As it stands, school boards are not required to base their school-closure decisions on specific information, but they can look at population numbers, enrolment patterns and facility utilization.

The document said a standardized method would help the public understand the rationale behind school clos-



Bob Fowler JEFF HARPER/METRO

ures, which have prompted protests from parents in recent years.

Bob Fowler, a former provincial deputy minister and chairman of the province's school review committee, said the ideas in the discussion paper will be discussed at public meetings across Nova Scotia in January.

"Do people find resonance in what's there, or would they like to broaden it? Would they like to change it? Do they like the current process?" Fowler

said at a news conference in Halifax.

"We have to listen to people in those broader consultations."

The public input from those meetings will help Fowler and a new committee develop recommendations for Education Minister Karen Casey, to be submitted by the end of February.

In April, then-education minister Ramona Jennex asked the province's school boards to suspend all school closures until next year, saying the review process has become adversarial and upsetting for parents and school boards.

Casey said the review process will always be an emotionally charged issue, regardless of how or if the process is changed in the spring.

"Will it ever be a process that is without anxiety? No," Casey said. "I think governments are to be commended for responding to the concerns that people bring forward." THE CANADIAN PRESS

## By the numbers

# 40

From the 2008-09 school year until 2012-13, school boards decided to close 40 schools, the discussion paper said.



Education Minister Karen Casey speaks to media on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## HRM set for 'substantial' review of rural tax rates



Coun. Barry Dalrymple made a request Tuesday for comparisons of rural and commercial tax rates and services. JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

RUTH DAVENPORT  
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

City staffers are set to embark on a benchmarking study of taxation and service rates in HRM and in other rural municipalities in Nova Scotia.

Coun. Barry Dalrymple made the request Tuesday, saying he's looking for comparisons of rural residential and commercial taxation rates and service levels.

"We have sometimes compared suburban to urban to

rural taxation or services, to me that's not comparing apples to apples," he said.

"We border so many other rural municipalities, I think we need to have some kind of knowledge of where we stand in regards to other rural municipalities."

Coun. Wayne Mason, who represents downtown Halifax, drafted the motion. He said information is lacking on comparisons of rural tax rates, and said it's to everyone's benefit to know how HRM stacks up.

"If our taxes are super

## It's a go

Halifax regional council unanimously approved the motion.

high compared to Kings and Annapolis County or East Hants ... if our farms are at a disadvantage, yeah, even though I'm the downtown councillor, I want to know that and we need to address that," he said.

Dalrymple said the infor-

mation could be used to advocate for changes to tax levels, depending on the results.

HRM CAO Richard Butts asked council to refer the motion to the community planning and economic development standing committee, saying the review will be a "substantial" piece of work.

"I'd rather take a look at it, come back and speak to a committee about it and really do it in an appropriate, pragmatic way so we get the best answers and best recommendations," he said.

## Kentville man

### DNA analysis delays sexual assault case against paramedic

Lawyers are waiting for a DNA analysis before pushing forward the case of a suspended paramedic accused of assaulting multiple female patients while on the job.

James Duncan Keats of Kentville was not present in Windsor provincial court on Tuesday when Nova Scotia Legal Aid lawyer Karen Armour asked that the case be adjourned until January.

Armour said the Crown has received new information regarding the Hants County-based charges, and further DNA analysis will be required.

Judge Claudine MacDonald agreed to set a new

election date of Jan. 28.

Keats, 48, is facing 14 charges; equal counts of sexual assault and breach of trust, after six women ranging in age from 24 to 71 years told police the paramedic sexually assaulted them.

Several of these cases involve alleged incidents that took place in HRM, including Halifax and Lower Sackville.

KING'S COUNTY REGISTER



James Duncan Keats JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Surplus property

### Agreement for Northcliffe site OK'd

The first property to be dealt with under HRM's new policy for disposing of surplus properties is on the verge of being sold.

Halifax regional council has approved the sale of the Northcliffe Recreation Centre site to a numbered company.

Details of the sale won't

be released until the sale closes in 90 days, but Coun. Russell Walker said Tuesday the buyer is a church, and the property was sold for more than the list price of \$1.15 million. Our Lady of Lebanon Church was one of three groups that offered proposals for the site in July 2012, but Walker couldn't confirm whether it's the buyer.

Council debated the recommendation for about an hour. METRO



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# Musical performance puts the hum back in humbug

## A Christmas Carol.

Tale of redemption is reimaged at Neptune Theatre, starting Friday



HALEY  
RYAN

haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Feel free to ask him yourself, but Scrooge has a soft spot for Halifax.

Neptune Theatre officially launches its holiday season on Friday with *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, back by popular demand, with most of the same cast who appeared in the 2009 production.

English actor Jon Osbaldeston is returning as Scrooge, the mean old man who decides to change his ways after he is visited by three ghosts on Christmas Eve.

"We're certainly looking at a darker side of it sometimes, I think, which makes the redemption bit all the more out there," said Osbaldeston about their take on the Charles Dickens story.

"Technically there's a few more whiz-bangs and special effects, so it's good."

In "typically Canadian" fashion, Osbaldeston said

no one is shouting about how special the play is, but it deserves attention for the "Neptune original" script and music from Canadian composer Eric Hughes.

Halifax itself helped sway his decision to return, Osbaldeston said, since he had a "brilliant" time here and enjoyed the seaside, culture, bars and walkable downtown.

Osbaldeston said he also likes how the play veered away from Scrooge as a "doddering old man" and shows him as a capitalist businessman in his late 40s who just believes in looking out for himself.

"After his redemption, he goes on for another 20 years to look after Tiny Tim," said Osbaldeston during a media preview Tuesday. "It places Scrooge at the right age."

Neptune's artistic director George Pothitos said he wanted to stage a show that "unites family" and that people of any age could enjoy.

Pothitos said audience members might recognize the Khyber building and St. Paul's Church in the sets. He wanted to have a few local details on stage, especially since Dickens visited the city before writing *A Christmas Carol* and commented on the architecture, calling Halifax a



Ebenezzer Scrooge, played by Jon Osbaldeston, gets his Christmas turkey in Neptune Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol*. JEFF HARPER/METRO

"mini-London."

Although it's been 170 years since Dickens' novel was published, Pothitos said its theme of second chances helps it remain a Christmas favourite year after year.

"Redemption is appealing to us all, that even somebody like Scrooge can self-realize he can be better a human being," Pothitos said. "It's never too late to change for the better. We always have time."

The play will run at Neptune until Dec. 31.



The musical production of *A Christmas Carol* includes a junior chorus of 10 members. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Scrooge, the eternal optimist

"We can take it and run with it and make it even better than it was last time."

English actor Jon Osbaldeston, who plays Ebenezer Scrooge



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## Fraudster. Truro man handed 18-month conditional sentence

A former financial advisor who bilked dozens of clients out of an estimated \$14 million has been given an 18-month conditional sentence.

John Alexander Allen, 49, of 87 James St., Truro, who was sentenced on four counts of fraud, must serve the first nine months under full house arrest followed by a curfew of 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. for the last nine months. Allen must also perform 150 hours of community service during the conditional-sentence period.

His conditional sentence is to be followed by 18-months probation, during which he must perform an additional 150 hours of community service, for a total of 300 hours. Allen was also issued a total of \$400 in victim surcharge fines.

Provincial Court Judge Warren Zimmer said restitution to Allen's clients was not ordered in part because of the complexity of the case. He also noted that a number of those clients



John Alexander Allen TRURO DAILY NEWS

are pursuing civil lawsuits through Nova Scotia Supreme Court. Allen originally faced 21 counts of forgery and fraud dating back to 2004. He pleaded not guilty to the charges but agreed to a guilty plea on four counts earlier this year.

The remaining charges have been withdrawn by the Crown. TRURO DAILY NEWS

## Forecast. High winds, lots of rain coming our way

A wind and a heavy rainfall warning has been issued for all of HRM by Environment Canada as a major storm heads to the region for Wednesday.

While some parts of Atlantic Canada are getting snow from the system, Halifax is forecast to get only rain — and lots of it.

Up to 70 millimetres is possible by Thursday morning. As well, winds gusts of up to 100 kilometres per hour are possible on Wednesday night.

Weather warnings have been issued for the entire prov-

### The high

14

The high temperature forecast for Wednesday

ince, as well as parts of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

The storm system coming our way has been hammering Ontario, Quebec and the eastern United States. METRO

### Uhh ... stolen bunnies?

## Warrant issued for Kentville man

A warrant has been issued by the court for the arrest of a Kentville man charged in relation to the theft of bunny rabbits from Henigar's Farm Market in Greenwich in August.

Colten Christopher Robert Young, 22, is charged with possession of stolen property valued at less than \$5,000. Two baby rabbits were stolen from the petting zoo on Aug. 26. Two more rabbits were taken from the pen two days later.

KENTVILLE REGISTER

### Bedford boy dead

## Trucker charged, due in court in Jan.

A Montreal truck driver charged in connection with a fatal highway crash that claimed the life of a Bedford boy this summer is due to return to court in Windsor early next year.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid lawyer Karen Armour represented Mohammad Younus in Windsor provincial court Tuesday. He is charged with dangerous driving causing death and dangerous driving causing bodily harm.

HANTS JOURNAL



Paramedics are getting a raise, but it's not as big as they wanted. JEFF HARPER/METRO

# Deal disappoints N.S. paramedics

**Union.** Workers to get four per cent under what they had wanted

### Paramedics

800

The number of paramedics in Nova Scotia

The union that represents Nova Scotia's paramedics said Tuesday it was disappointed an arbitrator sided with their employer on a new collective agreement after more than three years of negotiations.

Terry Chapman, the union's business manager, said members wanted a higher wage increase in the new deal that expires Oct. 31, 2015.

"It is what it is," said Chapman. "Based on the worth to the public ... we feel we're

worth more than we get."

Arbitrator J. A. MacLellan's decision awards increases totaling 10.6 per cent over four years and seven months, while the union wanted a 15 per cent hike over that same period.

Before the matter went to arbitration, the union was asking for a 15 per cent pay hike over three years.

The arbitrator's decision said the parties have agreed

on a defined benefit pension plan, one of the union's key demands.

In his decision, MacLellan said he considered a tentative agreement that was endorsed by the union's bargaining team, wage increases in the public sector and the province's economic situation in siding with Emergency Medical Care.

"This selection cannot and will not please the union membership," said MacLellan, who was tasked with choosing one of the final offers without making changes.

"I wish I had the ability to tweak the final offers."

Stacey Brown, a spokeswoman for Emergency Medical Care, thanked employees for

their professionalism during the three-year process.

"We're moving forward and continue to work together on our commitment to delivering the highest quality patient care to Nova Scotians," she said in an email.

The former NDP government introduced legislation this past summer to send the matter to binding arbitration and avert a possible strike.

Both sides had been negotiating since September 2011.

Union members had repeatedly rejected offers from Emergency Medical Care, even after a tentative settlement was reached in January with the help of a conciliator.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Ombudsman says his office needs bigger role

Nova Scotia's ombudsman says his office's services need to be broadened to better help vulnerable people and satisfy public expectations.

Dwight Bishop released his annual report Tuesday, calling for more resources to meet what he says are growing demands.

Bishop said the need is

greatest among youths, people who are new to the province and those trying to navigate the health system.

He cited one example where, during the course of an investigation, he found that Nova Scotia has no legislation requiring background checks for people hired to work with at-risk youth.

He also said evolving public concerns over government impropriety highlight the need for a stronger ombudsman office. "From an oversight standpoint, are the expectations being met? Is there a better way of meeting it?" Bishop said at a news conference. "People expect a lot from the ombudsman's area."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Not available for comment

The province's justice minister, whose department provides funding to the ombudsman's office, was not immediately available for comment.





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# Report: Transport Canada rail oversight lacking in key areas

**'Significant weaknesses'** Issues include poorly trained inspectors, lack of route knowledge and absence of followup when problems are found

A rail-safety audit completed just days before the deadly July train crash in Lac-Mégantic, Que., found "significant weaknesses" in Transport Canada's oversight of railways.

Those weaknesses include a lack of knowledge

of rail routes used to transport dangerous goods, too few safety auditors, poorly trained inspectors and an absence of followup or sanctions when safety problems are found.

"What we identified was that there were weaknesses in all aspects of how Transport Canada is overseeing rail safety systems in the (rail) companies," auditor general Michael Ferguson told a news conference Tuesday.

His report found that only 14 safety audits of Canada's 31 federally regulated railways had been completed in the previous

three years — just a quarter of the audits Transport Canada had expected to carry out.

Moreover, "the scope of the department's audits is very limited," stated the report.

And eight of those 14 audits focused on just the two largest operators, CN and Canadian Pacific, leaving Canada's smaller operators largely unchecked.

One of those small rail companies was the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic, whose unattended, single-operator train carrying 7.6 million litres of

volatile crude oil derailed and exploded in Lac-Mégantic on July 6, killing 47 people.

The auditor general's report, which was wrapped up barely a week before the crash, explicitly states it makes no assessment of the Lac-Mégantic disaster.

However, Ferguson acknowledged Tuesday that the deadliest rail accident in Canadian history highlights the audit's significance.

"Any time there's a serious, significant incident, it's always going to raise questions," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The centre of Lac-Mégantic, Que., wiped away under a clutter of smouldering tanker cars on July 7. An auditor general report found "significant weaknesses" in Transport Canada's railway oversight. RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Ashley Smith inquest. Watchdog needed for secretive prisons: Lawyer

Only an independent, external watchdog can force improvements on a secretive prison system deeply resistant to change, an inquest jury heard Tuesday.

Proper accountability is desperately needed to prevent a recurrence of the Ashley Smith tragedy, a lawyer for a women's prisoner advocacy

group told jurors.

In closing submissions, Breese Davies said it would be useless to simply recommend a culture shift at Correctional Service Canada.

"This inquest has taught us the risks of allowing CSC to continue to operate under a cloud of secrecy," Davies said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Medical pot. Health Canada mail-out error leads to firings, robbery: law firm

At least three medical marijuana patients have lost their jobs and one person has been the victim of a home invasion since Health Canada outed 40,000 medical pot access program participants in a mass mail-out gaffe last week, according to law firm Branch MacMaster.

The B.C. firm has filed a

class-action lawsuit against Health Canada over the privacy breach and says members of the country's medical marijuana program now worry about being attached to the stigma that comes along with using marijuana and fear they may be victim of a robbery.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO IN OTTAWA

### Study

Number of H1N1 deaths similar to common flu

A new study suggests the number of people who died from the H1N1 flu in 2009 was similar to the toll taken by seasonal flu, but the authors suggest the comparison is misleading because the people who died during the H1N1 pandemic were a lot younger than those who die from seasonal flu.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### More cuts

Sears Canada laying off 800 employees

Sears Canada is laying off nearly 800 employees as it moves ahead with a plan to reduce operating costs, saying Tuesday that most of the cuts would be made in its repair parts and service business, where 712 jobs would be eliminated. Another 79 will lose their jobs in the Toronto head office.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## Life must go on in battered Philippines

A mother cuddling her baby crosses a muddy ground amid devastated buildings around an evacuation centre in the central Philippine province of Leyte on Tuesday. The province of Leyte was right in the destruction path of the super typhoon Haiyan, which pummeled central Philippines on Nov. 8. **BULLIT MARQUEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Senate scandal. PM defends Conservatives implicated in Duffy deal

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is defending Conservatives involved in Sen. Mike Duffy's expense-repayment deal.

Harper's former chief of staff, Nigel Wright, has borne the full blame of his ex-boss for the controversial scheme to reimburse the disgraced senator's \$90,000 worth of disallowed expenses. Wright resigned in May.

But other senior staff still in the Prime Minister's Office, including director of issues management Chris Woodcock and manager of parliamentary affairs Patrick Rogers, were also active in the discussions about

how to get Duffy to repay his expenses.

"The question is why he hasn't fired all these other people in his office who were part of this coverup?" NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair demanded Tuesday.

Harper has steadfastly maintained that only two people are responsible for possible wrongdoing: Wright and Duffy. The RCMP has alleged they committed fraud, breach of trust and bribery in striking the deal that involved the exchange of money. No one has been charged. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Prime Minister Stephen Harper is pictured during question period in the House of Commons on Tuesday. **SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### Bit his victim

## Homework helps track would-be thief

Police in Barrie, Ont., say homework assignments led investigators to a would-be thief who put the bite on his victim.

Police were called to a home around 5 a.m. on Nov. 20 to investigate a report of a young man attempting to steal items from a parked car.

Investigators say the homeowner had confronted the suspect and was bitten three times on the forearm. However, the victim was able to grab the suspect's backpack during the scuffle.

Officers searched the bag and found a binder that contained several homework assignments that led them to arrest a 16-year-old on Monday.

The teen is charged with attempted theft and prowling by night. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Online

For more news, go online to [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)



# Suspected drone spotted hovering over Quebec jail

## 'Flying object'

No inmates were in courtyard at time, but jail can't verify whether any contraband fell



JOE LOFARO  
Metro in Ottawa

Public safety officials in Quebec don't know for sure whether it was a bird, a plane, or a cape-wearing superhero, but something was in the sky hovering above the Hull jail Sunday morning and they think it was a drone.

Philippe Desjardins, a spokesperson for the min-

istère de la sécurité publique, said a corrections officer saw a round, orange "flying object" about 15 cm in diameter in the sky above the prison courtyard at 11:20 a.m. The prison is located at 75 rue St-François, which is approximately 5 kilometres west of downtown Ottawa.

"The corrections officer found nothing on the ground in the prison," said Desjardins. "We have no evidence that the drone dropped something or crashed in the perimeter of the prison."

He said the jail confirmed that no inmates were in the courtyard at the time, but officials could not verify whether any contraband fell from the object.

The ministry oversees correctional facilities in the province of Quebec.

"The corrections officer takes this very seriously because they are afraid that kind of flying object (could have) dropped some kind of drugs or cellphone or something like that," said Desjardins. "They're very aware of different methods to stop these kinds of events."

The jail has closed its investigation, according to the ministry spokesperson.

### Worried

"They are afraid that kind of flying object (could have) dropped some kind of drugs."

Philippe Desjardins, spokesperson for the ministère de la sécurité publique, on the corrections officer's fears

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## Hey celeb, what was volunteering like?



"I can't even describe the joy I saw in children's eyes in Kenya, knowing they could go to school."

Shawn Desman, R&B singer



"It was very metaphorical. We built the foundation for that community and the kids."

Munro Chambers, actor on Degrassi



"The kids I met in Ghana were so excited about life. I know that they're going to conquer the world, and they're going to make it a better place."

Aislinn Paul, actress on Degrassi

## Music lessons



CONTRIBUTED

Canada's classical vocal quartet The Tenors taught four-part harmony in rural Kenya recently, coaching high-achieving girls at Free the Children's Kisaruni Girls High School how to belt out a tune. And not just any tune, but the Leonard Cohen classic Hallelujah.

- Remigio Pereira, Victor Micallef, Fraser Walters and Clifton Murray divided the 80 eager girls into four groups and each Tenor taught his part of the song to his group. They then came together to sing as one powerful voice.
- Murray spoke of how inspiring it was to "share the international language of music with girls who have faced their share of hardship." But through education, and a song in their hearts, he said, they are tomorrow's leaders.

Watch the video of the girls singing Hallelujah at metronews.ca.



## WE DAY

Time to get schooled: Free the Children's We Day, an annual event to launch a yearlong series of youth actions, looks at the power of education

ATLANTIC CANADA  
2013

Spencer West, front, climbs Mount Kilimanjaro with his best friends, David Johnson and Alex Meers.

CONTRIBUTED

Certain life lessons are universal: "Treat others how you want to be treated"; "Everything happens for a reason"; "Don't put aluminum foil in the microwave."

Then there are moments of personal triumph or tragedy that come with unforeseen life lessons. One such moment found me halfway up Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania.

About 2,500 metres into our 5,895-metre Kilimanjaro climb, I felt like I'd been hit by a truck. After four consecutive days of waking with the sun to trek through challenging climates, we'd reached the alpine desert — scorching heat and arctic chill — and Africa's tallest peak had taken its toll. Up to this point I'd been climbing on my hands. My shoulders, elbows and wrists were waging war with my body, begging me to

## Summit day

David and Alex were in rough shape, having lost the contents of their stomachs to altitude sickness. Physically, I felt fine. I guess being 2'7" finally paid off.

Spencer West, on the lessons he learned climbing Kilimanjaro without legs.

stop. My best friends, David and Alex, would have to carry me in an apparatus that had been custom-built for the occasion of my defeat. The mountain had won.

Then came summit day. David and Alex were in rough shape, having lost the contents of their stomachs to altitude sickness. Physically, I felt fine. I guess being 2'7" finally paid off.

Mentally, I was struggling with something I'll never forget. For the first time in my life

I wished I had legs, not for my sake, but because I wanted to be able to carry my friends like they had carried me.

Evidently, my fairy godmother had the day off. Instead, I did the only thing I could do. I spoke from the heart, expressing words of encouragement the entire way to the top to keep their spirits up and their minds distracted from the gruelling monotony of putting one foot in front of the other.

I became the best damn cheerleader that mountain had ever seen. And I carried them, emotionally speaking.

The lesson? Always exercise in oxygen-rich environments.

No, really, it's this: I didn't fail for being carried; I succeeded when I asked for help, and then I returned the favour.

Nobody achieves anything exceptional on their own. I learned the importance of having others who believe in you.

For 57 million children around the world who are denied access to education, the ability to read, write and receive formal job training are lost.

But those children might also be denied moments of sudden, unexpected inspiration that come from the encouragement of their peers, life lessons they would have learned

from exposure to alternative perspectives, and mentorship opportunities from teachers. An entire ecosystem of support is also lost.

For me, part of being educated means having the confidence to believe in yourself and the humility to ask for help. It's the ability to recognize teachable moments and extract moral lessons.

Education is the implicit knowledge that somebody believes in you, will celebrate your successes and shoulder your mistakes. Education is mentorship; it's the confidence that teachers instill in students so that when students graduate, they no longer need their teachers. Education is sustainability. We are in danger of losing this social capital, and 57 million life lessons.

SPENCER WEST/FOR METRO

## Hey kid, what's the most important thing you've ever learned in school?



Zipora Logan, kindergarten

"I think it's art. We make dinosaurs out of clay."



Crystarbell Okunseyien, Grade 3

"Respect. Because all the children will be respecting you too."



Kemson Edward, kindergarten

"Well, I learned everything.... Gym.... Basketball!"



Beatrice Cameron, Grade 5

"I really like learning math and I think it's really useful. I think I can apply it to a lot of things."



Mary Pasqualino, kindergarten

"I did lessons on the calendar. (It's important because) you have to listen."



Learning comes in many forms, whether it's the formal education of schooling or the lessons gleaned from volunteer work. Here are a few stories of how Free the Children is impacting people's educations:

## Single mom at 12, Rahab Sopiato leaves her charcoal-making days behind for a new career

Rahab Sopiato, 40, gave birth to the first of three children when she was just 12. She bursts out laughing when asked what happened to the father, but makes it clear that he didn't stick around, so she scratched out a living making charcoal.

It was gruelling, hopeless work in the Maasai community of Kajiado, located a three-day walk south of Nairobi in Kenya's Rift Valley.

To make charcoal, Sopiato scavenged branches and chopped them into pieces. Then she covered the pile in leaves and set it alight, before burying it in dirt. The heap smouldered. In three days' time, she had charcoal briquettes, enough to fill one sack.

The market was three hours away, so she borrowed a neighbour's donkey to get there. If she was lucky, she sold the sack for 100 Kenyan shillings, enough to buy corn flour to make a thin porridge for her children. If she wasn't, she returned home with the sack but no food for dinner.

She repeated the process of making charcoal and trudging to market for three decades. She says she was very thin and sickly; so were her children. She couldn't afford to send her eldest daughter to high school, which in Kenya can cost the equivalent of \$350 Canadian a year.

A high school education in Kenya is thought to be the golden ticket to a better life. She hated that she couldn't provide that.

Then two years ago, Sopiato heard about Me to We Artisans,

which paid mamas like her a fair wage for their beaded handiwork, which was designed for a Western market and sold around the world. Me to We Artisans donates half of its profits to Free the Children, and uses the other half to grow the business.

Sopiato makes bracelets, necklaces and earrings. This fall, she focuses on "ABC Education Rafiki Friend Chains." Each one sold buys school supplies for One Child for One Year. Fingers flying, she makes about 40 a day.

With the money she has so far earned, she was able to finally send her eldest daughter to secondary school. At 29, she just graduated. Sopiato happily talks about what she did with her first few paycheques from Me to We Artisans.

She bought two cows so her family had milk. Then she set up a small shop that sells sugar, soda, flour, rice, potatoes and sweets.

While she waits for customers, she beads.

And at night, Rahab sits on the comfortable cush-

### One way to make a living

**Sopiato scavenged branches and chopped them into pieces. Then she covered the pile in leaves and set it alight, before burying it in dirt.**



COURTESY SCOTT RAMSAY

ioned seats she bought, in her newly painted house, and watches her small TV. After many years of unrelenting hard work, she relaxes. She pats her ample stomach and thick thighs and says the extra pounds she has gained are another tangible sign of her good fortune.

She hopes to never make another charcoal briquette in her life. She also hopes that her children, well educated and well on their way, will support her as she grows old.

SHELLEY PAGE/FREE THE CHILDREN/FOR METRO

## Thousands of students from 240 schools gather in Halifax to hear speakers

Although it's easy to get lost in a "me, me, me" mentality sometimes kids are gathering to think about the "we."

Halifax is hosting We Day Atlantic Canada for the first time, where 8,000 students and teachers from every Atlantic Canadian province will hear more than a dozen speakers and see artists like Classi-fied and Hedley.

Dalal Al-Waheidi, executive director for We Day Global, said the event is all about empowering kids

to make changes in their own community.

"If we think as a collective, as a community, our impact will be much larger," said Al-Waheidi.

Speakers begin around 10 a.m. (watch live at weday.com) and include Hollywood actor Martin Sheen, former Governor General Michaëlle Jean, Martin Luther King III, We Day co-founders Marc and

Craig Kielburger, and Spencer West, a double amputee who climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro using his hands and wheelchair.

Al-Waheidi said some of the discussion and speakers will focus on Halifax issues around poverty and diversity. She said many groups will hear "shout-outs" throughout the day, like Ellenville Junior High School's Eagle in Action club. Among many projects, Al-Waheidi said the Dartmouth teens raised over \$150 for their local food bank by having students bid on unwanted holiday gifts.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Hedley will make an appearance at We Day Atlantic Canada. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Education helps you manifest your destiny, Maasai man teaches suburban teen

It was the summer of 2011, and I was 16 years old when my outlook on life took a turn.

I found myself in Kenya for three weeks with Free the Children, and our mission was simple: Help build a school for the children who lived in the rural region of the Maasai Mara.

Our Maasai guide, whose English name was Steven, caught me alone with my thoughts as the sun set. What began as an earnest conversation about our respective lives turned into an image I've carried with me ever since.

Steven told me that life is a lottery; a game of chance. The situation a person is born into is a matter of luck, and destiny has nothing to do with it.

Steven talked about the control we must exert over our lives and that destiny plays no part in the outcome. His dream was to get an education, so he could become more than a cattle herder — the traditional role of a Maasai man. The point: Whether it is rural Kenya or the suburbs of Toronto, an education opens us up to a larger world than the one we were born into.

And that gives us the power to choose the life we want to lead. My conversation with Steven left me with many thoughts, but one prevailing theme: Although where we find ourselves at birth may be a matter of chance, an education puts us on our life's path.

DEVIN JONES, ME TO WE VOLUNTEER IN KENYA



CONTRIBUTED

## Gratitude learned through carrying water

It usually happens when I turn on the tap. As the water comes out, so do memories of my three overseas trips with Me to We.

This year was Ghana. I was there to help build a school. It was amazing to watch mothers and women of the

Assemkow community continuously walk back and forth with huge pans of water on their heads.

I tried carrying just a small one and it was so difficult. I don't know how they do it so easily, let alone with no hands. To think that the water they are carrying is not even clean really got to me. They go through all this work to have access to dirty water for drinking, bathing, and doing laundry, yet back at home I simply turn on the tap and clean water comes rushing out.

It was actually too much water that created a challenge in Assemkow. Free the Children already had two buildings up. The community already had two kindergarten classes, but they were not running because a storm had ripped off the roof of the building, so they had no choice but to shut it down. We helped get that roof up and the school running in no time, but it was mostly the community that made it happen.

I am now more cautious about everything I do and waste as little as possible. Overall, the trip has inspired me to save water and to be way more grateful with all I have.

MADISON JAMESON, ME TO WE VOLUNTEER IN GHANA



CONTRIBUTED



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The triumphant trio, in colour-coordinated duds: Rogers president and CEO Nadir Mohamed, centre, with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, left, and Keith Pelley, president of Rogers Media, at a news conference on Tuesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Rogers scores with NHL deal

**Historic pact.** The \$5.2B agreement will diminish CBC's role in Hockey Night in Canada

Canada's hockey TV landscape underwent a seismic shift Tuesday as Rogers Communications wrestled control of NHL multimedia rights with a blockbuster 12-year, \$5.2-billion agreement that will preserve Hockey Night in Canada but limit CBC's role in the iconic broadcast.

The deal, the largest in NHL history, gives Rogers national rights to all NHL games, including the playoffs and Stanley Cup final, on all its platforms in all

languages.

"It will be the NHL like never before," Rogers Media president Keith Pelley promised at a packed news conference Tuesday, touting a "transformational day" for the industry, as well as Rogers' position as a sports broadcasting titan.

A sub-licensing agreement with CBC allows the public broadcaster to continue airing Hockey Night in Canada on Saturday nights for four years, while TVA in Quebec earned all of the Canadian French-language multimedia rights.

But the Rogers coup includes rights to the venerable Hockey Night in Canada brand, allowing Rogers to air the weekly staple across all its platforms, in-

## The good ol' hockey deal

The new deal is raising questions about the future of CBC's talent, especially Don Cherry. Rogers president Keith Pelley said it was too soon to answer those questions.

- The pact could put the iconic Hockey Night in Canada theme song in limbo. TSN has owned the rights to the jingle since 2008 after CBC was unable to negotiate a new agreement with the song's composer.

cluding City and Sportsnet.  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Market Minute

**DOLLAR**  
94.97¢ (+0.17¢)

**TSX**  
13,349.77 (-122.45)

**OIL**  
\$93.68 US (-41¢)

**GOLD**  
\$1,241.40 US (+20¢)

**Natural gas:** \$3.86 US (+2¢)  
**Dow Jones:** 16,072.80 (+0.26)

## Study. Social media gurus going the way of the dodo

Jobs for tech-savvy social media experts will be obsolete in 10 years, according to a new study released Tuesday by online employment site Workopolis.

The study predicts that social media experts will be a victim of advancing technology. That's because today's youth are already immersed in social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook.

"People will need to be even more literate with social media just to get in the door and it

## Random biz fact of the day

**97%**

97 per cent of recruiters use LinkedIn, 51 per cent use Facebook, and 49 per cent use Twitter. **WORKOPOLIS**

will no longer be something that absolutely differentiates folks," said a vice-president at Workopolis. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**





## Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland's latest novel, *Worst. Person. Ever.*, is available from Random House Canada.

Day 18

metronews.ca/temp

### Relationships

#### Temp work, temp love

With no job security or benefits and fluctuating schedules, temporary employment is affecting personal relationships.

A study by United Way Toronto and McMaster University found those doing precarious work — including contract, temporary and casual workers — are more likely to be single.

Among those aged 25 to 34, 31 per cent with secure employment are single, compared to 54 per cent with precarious jobs.

PHOEBE HO/FOR METRO



ISTOCK

### Carried away

#### Tittle tattle

We asked you to share your office secrets and you answered:

"During a tough year of merger and acquisition, the president of the company made a speech at the Christmas party and said, 'We will shoot the laggards and carry the wounded!' As the president left the stage, a friend, obviously having partaken of a few too many, ran at the president, jumped on his back and yelled, 'Yahoo, carry me, I'm wounded.' And yes, he was carried — carried out by security!" **METRO READER**

# Temp Empathizes with Ducklings

I stayed for a while at Chantelle's, but declined her vodka as I still had to drive — to the oil refinery to meet with Kyle who answered a meet-for-coffee text with: Blue gate, refinery north road, 7:45 look for billboard with photo of happy mallard duck family.

Indeed I found the Duck Family portrait with the banner caption, Always Putting the Environment First. It stood in front of a crude-oil cracking facility straight out of a sci-fi film where mutants on a slave planet convert poor people into snacks for the master species.

"Isn't this place great?" asked Kyle, coming in from the parking lot and wearing his still brand-new journeyman's outfit. "I start on the eight o'clock night shift. I'm totally stoked."

"Kyle, this place is freaky, and who knows what toxins there are in here."

"Shannon, for a guy with no degree, this is a good foot in the door, and if I play my cards right I can be a supervisor in a few years."

My heart felt like one of those little ducklings onto which a massive Acme cartoon anvil has fallen from a mile up. "Where's Mr. Burns' office?"

"Admin's about a mile thataway. Why are you so bummed out? I've got a real grown-up job job. You should be happy for me."

I was silent.

"And look, I can maybe go

work in Libya or Abu Dhabi and make crazy money. That's where the action is. Six months in the Emirates — business class ticket each way — live in a walled compound with satellite TV and well-stocked fridges — the sky's the limit."

I sighed.

"You're always looking for fun facts. Did you know that one barrel of oil — 42 gallons — yields 44 gallons of petroleum products?"

"I didn't."

"It's because when crude oil is converted, it increases in volume. Roughly half of each barrel of crude oil is turned into gasoline for transportation."

When did Kyle drink the "New Kyle" Kool-Aid? I

**"Shannon, for a guy with no degree, this is a good foot in the door, and if I play my cards right I can be a supervisor in a few years."**

never saw this coming.

He asked, "Shannon, why did you want to see me, anyway? Trying to get me involved in your evil plot with the Chinese?"

"As a matter of fact, yes."

"I don't think I'm the espionage type."

"It's not espionage."

"Look, now's not the time for this. I'm going to be late on my first day if I don't get in right now." He started edging backwards toward the entryway. "Besides, this is where I'm at in my life right now. I'm an oil guy."

"Promise me you'll call if you change your mind?"



### Random biz fact of the day

# 72%

A majority of job seekers says it's important that a company offers flexible schedules when they are deciding whether to take a position.

SOURCE: CAREERBUILDER

### The clock is ticking



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

## TEMP is ... well, temporary

Douglas Coupland's 20-day novella is a pop-up project and will disappear from our website this Monday at 12:01 a.m. EST. If you've missed an instalment, there are still five days to catch up at temp.metronews.ca — before it disappears. **METRO**

### Random fact of the day

Dolly Parton once anonymously entered a "Dolly Parton look-alike contest" but lost to a drag queen.

SOURCE: WTFUNFACT.COM



"Gotta go, Shannon. Bye."

I waved goodbye and got back into Danimal's BMW. I turned on the radio where Dust in the Wind by Kansas was playing and promptly began bawling.

TO BE CONTINUED ...



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# SURVIVAL IS MEDIUM-RARE

If you're an animal, you must be confused.

Take this new survey from Insights West in Vancouver, which shows that 88 per cent of British Columbians oppose trophy hunting.

That's the good news. The bad news is that almost the same number — 85 per cent — think it's OK to eat you.

Even more confusing, 73 per cent think it's OK to hunt animals for food.

If you could speak human, you'd probably point out that it doesn't really matter if you end up over someone's mantel or on the dinner table.

Either way, you're just as dead.

Then of course you might be a dog or a cat, a beneficiary of the \$6.5 billion that Canadians spend annually on their pets. Still, there's a risk you might end up in an animal shelter, where more than 51,000 cats, dogs and "others" are euthanized annually in Canada.

Be thankful you're not a pet turkey, especially around this



JUST SAYIN'

**Paul Sullivan**

metronews.ca

time of year. You could get really confused and dead.

You also might want to avoid being a lab rat. As many as 80 million rats and mice are used for research each year, and guess what happens when you're finished serving medical science.

Yup, you're dead.

If you're looking for some evidence that attitudes are changing for the better, wag your tail. Not only do people oppose trophy hunting, only 15 per cent are in favour of killing animals for their fur. Good news if you're a beaver, though it might mean you're more likely to be sheared alive.

The Insights West survey also says that only 38 per cent are in favour of using animals in rodeos, which means you're less likely to get rope burn, spur sores and any of the other hazards that make the West Wild.

And only 56 per cent think you should be caged in a zoo

where you're expected to spend the rest of your life wearing out a concrete trough from padding back and forth, mooching for peanuts.

So if you can get over the fact that 85 per cent want you for dinner, you might think things are looking up. Especially if you're not a member of the 21,286 species threatened with extinction, according to the 49th annual Red List, a census of the world's animals maintained by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, updated just this week. And if you're a Hawaiian Crow or Wyoming Toad, you probably don't mind living at the zoo, because your species is among the 61 extinct in the wild.

Of course, if you're a member of one of the 799 completely extinct species, you're dead.

Probably the best kind of animal you can be is a big nasty critter at the top of the food chain in an inhospitable region of the world where people don't like to go — like a polar bear in the Arctic.

On second thought, if global warming keeps up, there won't be any Arctic. And you know what that means.

## ZOOM

# Sometimes the dentist is a zoo



SHANE GIBSON/METRO WINNIPEG

## Aurora the polar bear goes under

Talk about a risky procedure.

On Tuesday morning veterinarians at the Assiniboine Park Zoo's animal hospital performed dental surgery on Aurora, the 11-month-old female cub who recently arrived at the zoo from Churchill, Man.

Thankfully Aurora was

anesthetized for the work, which Dr. Chris Enright, who heads up veterinarian services at the zoo, said isn't too different than what people get done at the dentist.

The zoo said during the procedure, veterinary staff removed two of the polar bear's baby teeth and one adult tooth that were broken and infected.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO WINNIPEG

Rarrrrhhh!

"Right now she's only about 110 pounds ... but she still has the attitude of a 600-pound predator. So it's certainly not safe to just ask her to open her mouth."

Dr. Chris Enright  
Head of veterinarian services  
Assiniboine Park Zoo

Friends at the zoo

- Aurora was brought to the zoo about a month ago.
- There are three other bears: Hudson (the oldest, and from the Toronto Zoo), Storm and another 11-month-old female who was named Kaska on Monday.

Clickbait



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Last week, AOL announced it was shutting down Winamp, one of the oldest, most venerable digital music players. Dating back to the days of Napster, Winamp was a favourite among music lovers who wanted something different than stock programs like iTunes and Windows Media Player. Sadly, the application will no longer be available for download as of Dec. 20. Fortunately, there are some free alternatives out there for those who don't need a Genius to tell them what to listen to.



CONTRIBUTED

**foobar2000**  
([foobar2000.org](http://foobar2000.org)):

Offering a simple yet powerful interface, foobar2000 isn't the drag on your computer's resources that iTunes is. It plays almost every audio file type imaginable and lets users tag their own music metadata.

**VLC Media Player**  
([videolan.org](http://videolan.org)):

Arguably the most popular open-

source media player on the market, VLC is a capable replacement. As a bonus, it's available on Windows, Mac, iOS, Android and Linux, so it meets the definition of "cross-platform."

**AIMP (aimp2.us):**

If you just can't let Winamp go, try this clone. AIMP's interface is almost identical to Winamp's, right down to the 18-channel equalizer and modular windows.

Twitter



@metropicks asked: Rogers' #NHL deal will see them assume control over #HNIC. What do you want left the same? What do you want changed?

@Fontaine\_D: It won't be long before we finally see the last of Don Cherry on HNIC. Thank you Rogers!

@cjoanporter: Question: Does all this #HNIC moving to Rogers news mean I'll no longer have to see/hear

Don Cherry? Bc then I'm all for it.

@scottmahoney94: yay monopoly

@bonnaventure: replace Don Cherry with an upturned mop w/ bucket for head. Replace Ron Maclean with Stuart McLean. Add @strombo 4 some reason less hockey, more 'who wore it best' segments.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:**

Send us your comments: [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca)



# The success beneath the beard

**Television.** Exploring the hairy truth behind the smash hit Duck Dynasty and their colourful cast of redneck characters

MIKE  
DOJC  
scene@metronews.ca

Reality TV has certainly gotten hairier in recent years. Remember the clean-shaven landscape of the first decade of the 2000s when cheeks were bare and exfoliated, and on top coifs were as mussed over as Ryan Seacrest's frosted tips?

The rose-toting bachelors, catwalk strutting top models, and silicone enhanced housewives who defined that era are still with us, but the idle life of mansion hopping, wine guzzling and recreational crisis-provoking that their ilk hawks has been eclipsed by a feral five o'clock shadow.

Reality that captures the current zeitgeist tends to aim its muzzle at a motley crew of outdoorsy folks who buck fashion trends and look more hobo than Hollywood.

Duck Commander founder Phil Robertson was a QB1 ahead of future hall-of-famer Terry Bradshaw at Louisiana Tech in the mid-1960s before giving up the gridiron for the duck blind.

Along with his kooky brother Si, boudin-cooking wife Miss Kay, business-savvy son Willie and the rest of the



Duck Dynasty's success has led to an number of backwater reality TV imitators. ZACH DILGARD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

loveable Robertson clan, the Duck Dynasty family are the undisputed lords of the backwoods boob tube explosion that has given us hooch making Moonshiners, wild boar hunting American Hoggies, and gator wrestling Swamp People.

The bodacious Bayou beards sported by the world's favourite duck calling sons have sold umpteen books, bobbleheads, school supplies, garden gnomes, and even

Chia pets.

Their squirrel eating comedic gold melds the best parts of The Beverly Hillbillies and The Waltons with a dash of Dukes of Hazzard camp thrown in to create A&E's most successful show ever — a cable goliath aired in more than 100 countries.

The finale of Duck Dynasty's third season drew 9.6 million viewers and trounced Fox's American Idol and CBS's Survivor in the coveted

18-49 demo.

Those heavy hitters of yesteryear couldn't reach the bottom wisps of the wizened beard of the Redneck Gandalf, Phil Robertson.

Then season four's premiere blew their already boffo numbers out of the water with a record setting 11.8 million tuning in for a quacking good time.

A Reddit thread dedicated to pondering the secret of this band of bushy-faced

## Reading the beards

The Duck Dynasty crew's beards are furry manifestations of the men lurking beneath them. Pogonologist Dr. Allan Peterkin reads the Robertson kin's face follicles to determine the beard statement the men are making.

- **Si.** "Substance over style."
- **Patriarch Phil.** "Longer is wiser."
- **CEO Willie.** "Seems gentle, poetic, approachable."

brothers' rampant popularity dwells on all sorts of cockamamie theories.

But in the end, they stand apart from their Lifestyles of the Redneck & Famous television brethren because of their cartoonish whiskers which tots will be wearing reasonable facsimiles of when they come knocking on your door for many Halloweens to come.

"They have a wild man, nature-loving, anti-authority quality that really stands out," weighs in Dr. Allan Peterkin, the author of One Thousand Beards-A Cultural History of Facial Hair, and grooming consultant for Dove's Men+Care face range.

"Their beards are an unforgettable part of their philosophy, brand, and trademark," says Peterkin.

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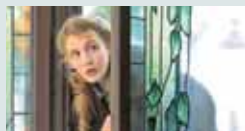
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## Drama



## The Book Thief

Director. Brian Percival

Stars. Geoffrey Rush, Sophie Nélisse

Based on an international bestseller, *The Book Thief* is an impassioned but understated piece of award-winning cinema focused on a young illiterate child coming of age in wartime Germany. Despite the familiarity of the emotional themes that make up *The Book Thief*, rising Canadian star Sophie Nélisse (Monsieur Lazhar) particularly molds the melodrama into moving entertainment and Geoffrey Rush is thoroughly watchable as the warm foster dad who teaches her to read. **STEVE GOW**

## Animated



## Frozen

Directors. Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

Stars. Kristen Bell, Josh Gad, Idina Menzel

The Princesses of Arendelle, Anna (Kristen Bell) and Elsa (Idina Menzel), are polar opposites. Anna is a warm-hearted adventurer while Elsa has the awesome power to manifest ice and snow from her fingertips. When Elsa accidentally plunges her kingdom into an endless winter Anna sets off with mountain man Kristoff (Jonathan Groff), his reindeer and a sun-worshipping snowman named Olaf (Josh Gad) to save the realm. *Frozen* has all the elements of classic Disney — amusing animals, catchy songs and two princesses — but wants for more complex characters. **RICHARD CROUSE**

## Action



## Homefront

Director. Gary Fleder

Stars. Jason Statham, James Franco

The first thing you need to know about *Homefront* is that it was scripted by Sylvester Stallone. That pretty much says everything about the thriller's severe tone, stock characterizations and messy combat choreography. Silly, but viscerally satisfying, Jason Statham plays an underground DEA agent hiding in backwoods Louisiana until his cover is blown and old enemies come calling. *Homefront*'s cast has trouble finding the right tone — especially one-time Oscar-nominee Winona Ryder playing a completely expendable former biker chick. **STEVE GOW**

## Thriller



## Oldboy

Director. Spike Lee

Stars. Josh Brolin, Elizabeth Olsen

Spike Lee's remake of *Oldboy* will be best appreciated by those who haven't seen the original Korean award-winner. That's because the premise of a businessman seeking bloody vengeance on whomever inexplicably locked him up for 20 years hinges on not knowing the final twist (even if Lee does alter it slightly). An assault of gratuitous violence, this update is nothing short of energetic but its lack of cohesion and expressiveness will almost certainly repel fans of the original. **STEVE GOW**

Bayers Lake  
190 Chain Lake Dr.

The Book Thief (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-6:10-9:20  
Frozen (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:20-9:10  
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Frozen 3D (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:25  
Oldboy (STC) Wed-Thu 7-9:30

Lower Sackville  
760 Sackville Dr.

Frozen 3D (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 7-9:35  
Homefront (STC) Wed-Thu 7-10:05

Dartmouth Crossing  
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The Book Thief (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 3:30-6:50-9:50  
Frozen 3D (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 3:40-6:30-9:30  
Homefront (STC) Wed-Thu 3:10-6:10-9:20

Truro  
20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook

Frozen 3D (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 6:35-9:25  
Homefront (STC) Wed-Thu 7-10

Bridgewater  
349 Lahave St.

Frozen 3D (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 6:25-9:10  
Homefront (STC) Wed-Thu 6:50-9:55

## Television. Even Jack can't defend Joffrey's creepiness

Jack Gleeson, who plays the vile adolescent King Joffrey on *Game of Thrones*, says he'll probably give up acting after the series ends (or after Joffrey dies horribly, which, knowing *GoT*, could happen a lot sooner).

"The lifestyle that comes with being an actor in a successful TV show isn't something I gravitate towards," the Irish Trinity College student said on Dublin's *Saturday Night Show*.

"It was a recreation beforehand and when I started doing

*Game of Thrones* there was, I wouldn't say pressure, but perhaps the reality became too real for me." What reality? Tumblrs and Tumblrs of hatred dedicated to your own sullen face? Maybe. Jack, who seems like a sweet guy in real life, says even he gets creeped out by Joffrey.

"You tend to abstract yourself from the creepiness of it when you're playing it, but when you see it on television it sends shivers down my spine," he says. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

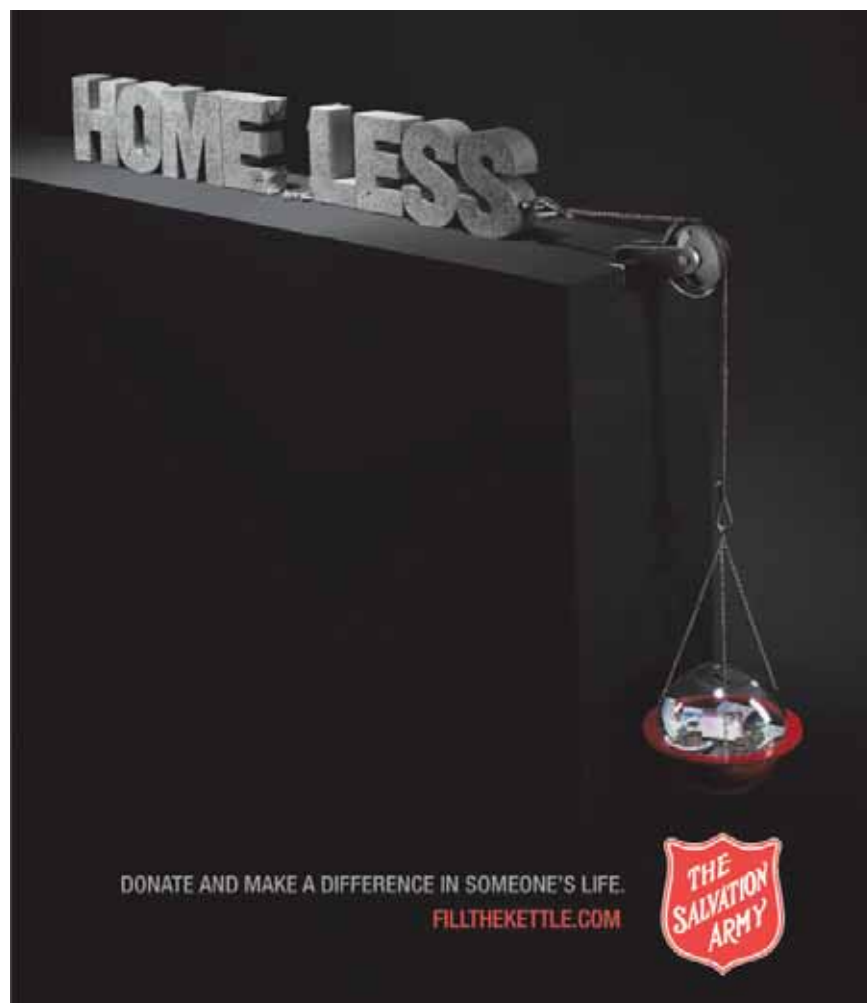


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November 28<sup>th</sup> 11:30-1:30, 5:00-7:00  
Saint Mary's University, Sobey Building, 4th Floor







Megan Fox.

## Fox not resenting her baby this time

Megan Fox is totally digging being pregnant the second time around.

"For the most part, I would say it's been a lot easier," she tells E! News recently.

"I think that could have a lot to do with the fact that I already have a baby, so I'm so distracted taking care of him that I don't really have time to sit and lament on the fact that I'm pregnant or indulge my pregnancy."

Fox and husband Brian Austin Green welcomed her son, Noah, 14 months ago.

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word

## Sorry Brad, there will be no private island for you

Angelina Jolie surely plans to do something special for Brad Pitt's 50th birthday next month, but that something special apparently doesn't involve buying him an island.

The NY Daily News had reported that Jolie laid out \$20 million for an 11-acre, heart-shaped private island on New York's Lake Mahopac, but the owners of the property, named Petra Island, tell E! News that it's still for sale.

"We are open to show Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt



the island, but they have to have lunch at my café first," says Donna Massaro, daughter of the island's owners.

The island would be of

particular interest to Pitt since the two houses on it were designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, one of his favourite architects.



Farrah Fawcett. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## Do you want to own a part of Farrah Fawcett?

Farrah Fawcett's nephew Gregory Walls inherited much of the late actress' personal items, and now he's apparently looking to get rid of some of them.

Walls listed 67 of Fawcett's items — including her People's Choice Award and her driver's licence — with a Dallas-based auction house, according to Radar Online. Walls insists he's unloading the goods for the sake of her

fans, writing in the auction catalogue that he decided to list the items after reading thousands of cards and letters they'd sent her.

"It was at that moment that I felt that I would do my best to give her fans a chance to possess some of the things that were special and dear to Farrah."

A portion of the proceeds will go to the Farrah Fawcett Foundation.

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY?

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3  
LIFE

## Katniss Everdeen for a day

**North Carolina.** Follow in the footsteps of some of your favourite tributes by visiting the sites from the Hunger Games film

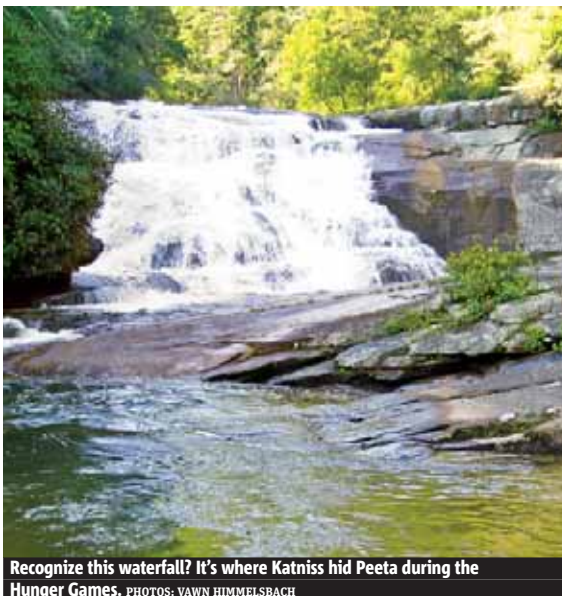
VAWN HIMMELSBACH  
life@metronews.ca

Want to shoot an arrow like Katniss or learn the art of sling shot like Rue? Whether you're a fan of the Hunger Games or an avid outdoor enthusiast, adventure awaits in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains.

Hike in the wilderness, learn survival skills, or just eat and drink like a celebrity — and may the odds be ever in your favour.

Hit the trails in Dupont State Recreational Forest (about an hour's drive from Asheville) where you'll discover some of the most iconic scenes from the first film. Pick up a trip planner at the Asheville Visitors Center or use the interactive online map (exploreasheville.com) to organize day trips out of Asheville.

A few points of interest in Dupont: hike to Triple Falls (from the main parking lot) to see where Katniss discovers a wounded Peeta. Or head to the scenic Bridal Veil Falls, where Katniss flees from the firestorm. (Note: The waterfalls were edited out of the film, since the tributes were always on the hunt for water.)



Recognize this waterfall? It's where Katniss hid Peeta during the Hunger Games. PHOTOS: VAWN HIMMELSBACH

If you're interested in behind-the-scenes scoop, it's well worth going on a Hunger Games Unofficial Fan Tour, where your guide will take you to locations used in the first film — locations that would be near impossible to find on your own. You'll also learn archery, sling shot and special-effects camouflage, and eat lunch featuring foods that your favourite tributes would have eaten. Day tours run from April to October and cost \$59 US; visit [hungergamesunofficialfantours.com](http://hungergamesunofficialfantours.com) for more info.

You can also visit Henry River Mill Village, the location for District 12. Because of vandalism, this abandoned mill town

about an hour east of Asheville is closed to the public, but you can take a Hunger Games Unofficial Fan Tour for \$50 US. Or, head to Chimney Rock Park for short hikes and rock climbs (also the filming location of *The Last of the Mohicans*).

#### Where to stay:

Spend the night at Hotel Indigo, where Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth stayed during the shoot. This boutique hotel has a contemporary vibe, with unique local touches such as wall murals in each room of nature scenes taken by a local photographer.

Until March 31, Hotel Indigo



Metro's intrepid travel writer Vawn Himmelsbach channels her inner Katniss Everdeen during an archery lesson in North Carolina.

is offering a Hunger Games package, which includes two nights accommodation, a \$15-per-person gift card for lunch at Early Girl Eatery, chocolate chip cookies in your room (Jennifer and Josh's favourite), as well as local Hunger Games trivia. Prices begin at \$290 US; email [snewton@hlihotels.com](mailto:snewton@hlihotels.com) for more info.

#### What to do:

Head to Lexington Avenue Brewery for brisket mac 'n cheese or mountain trout tacos. Alternatively, go to the Laughing Seed Café, where vegan Woody Harrelson went for vegetarian fare. Then head to The Southern for a vanilla bourbon mint julep on the patio.

To get your heart racing, check out Nantahala Outdoor Center for whitewater rafting and zip line tours.

#### Real or not real?

Hunger Games Unofficial Fan Tours will be offering guided tours behind the making of *Catching Fire* in Atlanta, Ga. You'll visit film locations via private shuttle, learn archery, play archery tag and make your own volcanic rock. Tours start Dec. 14, running through 2014 (\$94 US). For die-hard fans take a full weekend, which includes themed accommodations and food, survival training, banquet and game simulation (beginning April 2014 for \$599 US).

You can also hone your outdoor survival skills by taking a wilderness medicine course (scheduled classes or private instruction). Visit [noc.com](http://noc.com) for more info.

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# Take the chill out of November cold with Black Bean & Avocado Soup



**ROSE REISMAN**  
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This creamy, rich-tasting soup is very nutritious. I like to serve it garnished with reduced-fat sour cream, diced plum tomatoes or a sprinkle of shredded cheddar cheese.

1. Spray a nonstick saucepan with cooking oil, add vegetable oil and place over medium heat. Cook the onion, carrot and garlic, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes or until softened.

2. Set aside 1/2 cup of the black beans. Add the remaining beans, stock, sugar and cumin to the vegetable mixture. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium low. Cover and cook for 15 minutes or until the carrots are tender.

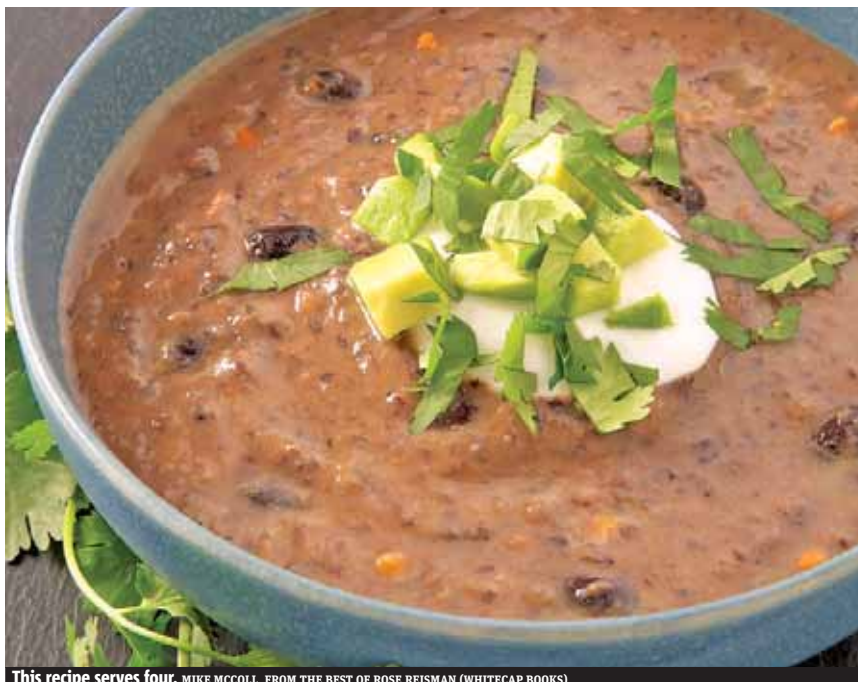
3. Purée soup in blender or food processor, working in batches. Return to saucepan. Stir in reserved beans.

4. Ladle the soup into individual bowls and garnish with cilantro and avocado and sour cream. **THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY: ROSE REISMAN**

## Ingredients

- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped carrot
- 2 tsp minced fresh garlic
- one 19 oz can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 1/2 cups low-sodium

- chicken or vegetable stock
- 1/2 tsp granulated sugar
- 3/4 tsp cumin
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro or parsley
- 1/4 cup diced avocado and reduced-fat sour cream



This recipe serves four. MIKE MCCOLL, FROM THE BEST OF ROSE REISMAN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

## Drink of the Week

### Juicy Dreams

Bourbon has all the qualities for a cold weather base: warming, festive, affordable and compatible. And because of those qualities, you don't need to do much to it to create a terrific cocktail.

- Ice
- 2 oz bourbon
- 1 oz Lillet
- 1/2 oz lemon juice
- 2 oz pomegranate juice

In an ice-filled cocktail shaker, combine the bourbon, Lillet, lemon juice and pomegranate juice. Shake, then strain into an ice-filled tumbler. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



# Getting a hold of your guru of greatness

## Finding "the one".

Taking the first steps toward finding your perfect mentor

**ROSIE  
HALES**

TalentEgg.ca

Sometimes a boost can be just what you need to jump start your career and finding a mentor might be the way to do just that.

The mentor-mentee relationship is a precious one. The mentor can coach their mentee in their chosen field and open up a whole variety of opportunities to them, while the mentee keeps their teacher abreast of current feelings and developments of the age group in that industry.

After you've decided what you might look for in a mentor (think: someone you like who works in your field of interest and, as an added bonus, has a strong network within the industry), try to brainstorm where you could meet said person. Here are some to start you off:

## Where to meet a



Asking someone to be your mentor may overwhelm them, as they won't know what that entails. Start with simply asking someone you respect for advice. **ISTOCK**

## mentor

### Networking events

Signing up for networking events can be a really great way to meet potential mentors and it's a useful strategy to get your foot in the door of your industry of interest.

### School

Universities or colleges often employ industry professionals to teach classes and making use of these connections to the outside world can provide you with a mentor that understands the culture of the classroom and of the workplace.

### Social media

Do you have a blog or Twitter account that you love to follow? If someone is posting things that are both interesting and relevant to your chosen field, they probably have other information that they'd love to share with you!

## What to do once you've met a potential mentor

### Ask for advice, not mentorship

Hatch your relationship by asking your potential mentor for advice about something, instead of making the overly formal request of "Will you be my mentor?" With any luck, your relationship will

blossom from there.

### Stay in touch

Once you've met your mentor, hopefully you will have had the chance to get their contact details.

Send them an email saying how great it was to meet them and recall an interesting part of your conversation to signal to them that you were listening and you were engaged with what they were

saying.

### Ask them questions, but don't bombard them

A good mentor does want to help you, but don't take advantage of their good nature.

Chances are, they are very busy and don't have a whole lot of time to reply to inquiries. Don't ask them huge numbers of questions all at once and try to keep these questions as succinct as possible.

### Say 'thank you'

Obviously. Put your good manners to good use!

Follow these tips on finding your perfect mentor and soon you'll be walking off into the sunset, hand-in-hand (but probably not — best to keep things professional, after all.)

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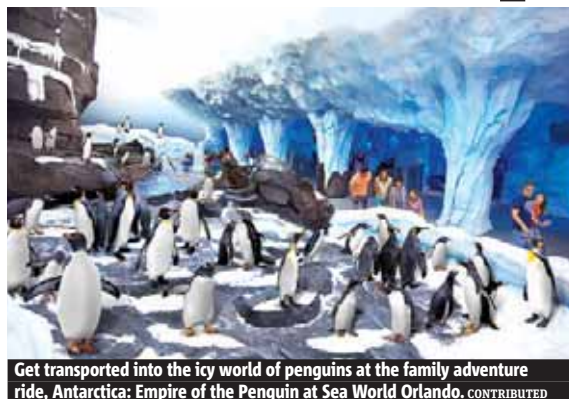
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Get transported into the icy world of penguins at the family adventure ride, *Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin* at Sea World Orlando. CONTRIBUTED

the streets of Springfield in the world's first Simpsons themed area at Universal Orlando Resort.

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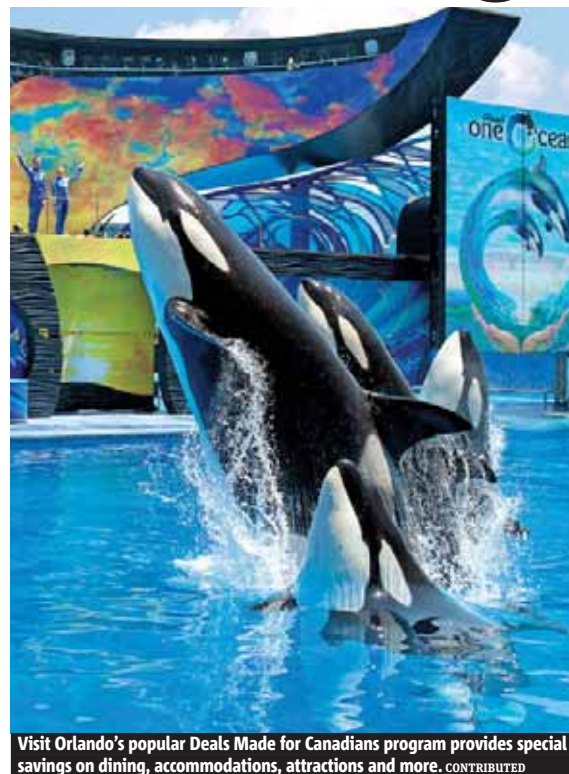
Get transported into the icy world of penguins on a first-of-its-kind family adventure ride, *Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin* at Sea World

Orlando. Follow animal warriors on magical journeys at Legoland Florida's new area, the World of Chima, based on the Cartoon Network animated TV series.

Get up a close-up look at the Space Shuttle Atlantis and learn the history of NASA's 30-year Space Shuttle program at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex.

For more information, visit VisitOrlando.ca or call 800-551-2006.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Visit Orlando's popular Deals Made for Canadians program provides special savings on dining, accommodations, attractions and more. CONTRIBUTED

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- Universal Orlando Resort — Four-night vacations starting from only \$299 per adult.
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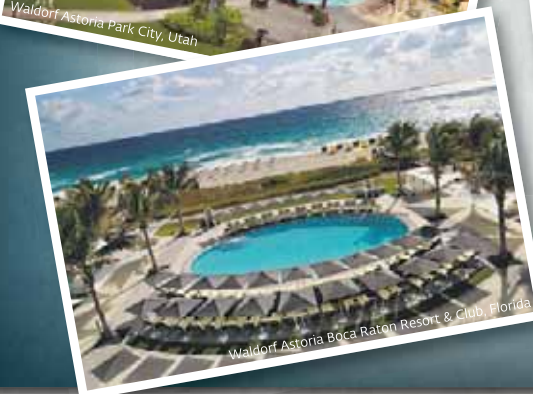
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metro

Your Neighbourhood

# DOWNTOWN HALIFAX

Wednesday, November 27, 2013



The Halifax Central Library is just one of a few projects popping up in downtown Halifax that has people excited for the future of the area. RICHARD WOODBURY/FOR METRO

## Building towards the future

RICHARD  
WOODBURY  
For Metro

There is something along Halifax's skyline that has been virtually non-existent for a long time — cranes.

"We haven't seen that for decades," said Paul MacKinnon, the executive director of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission.

The biggest project is the Nova Centre, which is often referred to as the convention centre. The \$500-million Nova Centre will include a luxury hotel and residences, in addition to the convention centre itself. It is expected to open in late 2015.

Another project is the RBC Waterside Centre, located in a parcel of land surrounded by Lower Water Street, Duke

Street, Hollis Street and the Cogswell Interchange. The nine-storey building will offer 100,000 square feet of Class A office and retail space, and will be built to LEED Gold Certification. A 2012 RBC press release says construction of the building would be complete by the end of this year. (Phone calls placed by Metro to the developer, the Armour Group, were not returned.)

One project that will touch the lives of many Haligonians is the new Halifax Central Library. The 108,000-square-foot facility's collection (books, DVDs, etc.) will be 50 per cent larger than the collection at the Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library, says its website. The Halifax Central Library will be open seven days a week, as opposed to the current six

at the Spring Garden Road library. The Halifax Central Library is scheduled to open in 2014.

There are also plans for future projects. In late August, a \$75-million residential and commercial development on the Halifax waterfront was announced. The project is expected to start in 2014 and has a completion date of 2016. It will be located on a

1.5-acre site at the intersection of Lower Water Street and Morris Street.

Earlier this month, Metro reported that work on a 22-storey luxury condominium at 1657 Barrington St. (also known as the Roy Building) will get underway in March 2014. According to the project's developer, it will be the tallest structure in Halifax's downtown.



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# Entertainment options abound

**Events.** Downtown will be hopping leading up to Christmas and the new year

**RICHARD WOODBURY**  
For Metro

When looking for a place to go, people gravitate towards Halifax's downtown. With Atlantic Canada's largest arena, a casino, a variety restaurants, and live theatre options, there is lots to keep you busy leading up to 2014.

As the home to both the Halifax Mooseheads and the Halifax Rainmen, the Halifax Metro Centre schedule is filled largely with hockey and basketball games over the next month. The Mooseheads, in particular, are having a great season and sit near the top of the standings. This is especially impressive given the team lost key players from last year, including Nathan MacKinnon and Martin Frk, who moved on to pro careers.

People looking to get into the Christmas spirit should head to Neptune Theatre



Joel Plaskett will be performing at Casino Nova Scotia Dec. 30. CONTRIBUTED

for the musical version of A Christmas Carol. Running until Dec. 31, the classic story of redemption shows it is possible for people to change their behaviour and attitudes. Besides being a Christmas tradition, A Christmas Carol resonates with audiences because it celebrates "the message of generosity and redemption," said Jennie King, Neptune's sales and marketing manager.

Another Christmas option is Canadian country singer Johnny Reid's Dec. 18 concert at the Metro Centre. The tour comes on the heels

of his latest CD, A Christmas Gift to You.

In late December, Casino Nova Scotia will be a local rock lover's dream as two of Halifax's most beloved musicians play shows at the Schooner Showroom. On Dec. 30, the Joel Plaskett Emergency will hit the stage for a standing-room only show. The following evening, Matt Mays will be performing.

As always, the Grand Parade will play host to a free New Year's Eve celebration and this year marks the 20th anniversary of the popular



The Neptune Theatre presents A Christmas Carol. SCOTT MUNN PHOTO

event. The headline musical act will be Maritimer David Myles, who has garnered a significant amount of acclaim in recent years, most recently for appearing on rapper Clas-

sified's hit song, Inner Ninja. Other performers on the bill include Asia and NuGruv, and Blueberry Grunt. Perhaps most importantly, there will be fireworks at midnight.

## Politically speaking

Coun. Wayne Mason gets to the point when talking about what it has been like since being elected to city council a year ago.

"It's been awesome," said the councillor for District 7, Peninsula South Downtown.

As Mason sees it, there are some key issues facing the downtown.

Parking is one and a common downtown complaint is there isn't anywhere to park.

"When they say there is no parking downtown, what they mean is (there is) no free or metered parking right in front of the restaurant they want to go," Mason said.

In fact, there are many off-street parking options, such as Scotia Square or other private parking lots. Mason said the issue is about trying to change people's mindsets about paying for parking.

As well, trying to find monthly parking is something large businesses struggle with and affects their willingness to set up shop in the downtown.

Transit is another important issue. Mason said many people who choose to live in the downtown do so because they don't want to have a car. That being said, the better the transit system is, the easier it will be to attract people to live in the downtown.

Not surprisingly, taxes are also on Mason's list of concerns, especially given 28 per cent of the commercial taxes paid in HRM stem from Mason's district. How much is then spent in the district is difficult to calculate, but there is dissatisfaction from commercial taxpayers.

One other concern has to do with the public realm, which includes the state of city property such as sidewalks, light poles and garbage cans.

"I had one small business person on Barrington Street say to me, 'The ugliest things in the downtown, they all belong to the city,'" Mason said with a laugh, referring to cracked sidewalks and asphalt patches in the downtown.

**RICHARD WOODBURY**



The Halifax Metro Centre co-hosted the 2008 IIHF men's world hockey championship. CONTRIBUTED

## Metro Centre. Years of memories

As the biggest arena in Atlantic Canada, the Halifax Metro Centre has long been the preferred sports and entertainment venue for the region. Celebrating its 35th anniversary, the facility has hosted approximately 5,000 events.

With its downtown location, the Metro Centre has been beneficial to the area's

bars and restaurants.

"Anytime there is an event happening at the Metro Centre, good luck sometimes trying to get into one of these places," said Scott Ferguson, the president and CEO of Trade Centre Limited.

With a seating capacity that is typically around 10,000 for hockey games and up to 11,000 for concerts, the Metro Centre is still holding up reasonably well. Ferguson feels the facility will be good for another 10 to 15 years. When a new arena gets built, he estimates it might have a seating capacity of around 16,000.

However, some major upgrades are on the horizon. A recent HRM staff report identified replacing the seating, centre-ice clock and ice slab, as well as an upgrade and expansion of the washrooms as the priorities. These changes will cost more than \$6 million. To finance this, city council recently voted in favour of selling naming rights for the facility. The staff report estimated that by selling the naming rights, it could bring in \$500,000 or

### Back to the future

- When it opened in 1978, the first concert it hosted was a performance by Gordon Lightfoot. Interestingly, Lightfoot will be playing a show at the Metro Centre April 30, 2014.

more annually for the city's coffers.

Before the Metro Centre was built, there was great debate about where it would be built since some people lobbied for the downtown, while others lobbied for Clayton Park.

The role of the Metro Centre has changed over the years. In the early days, besides being used for sports and entertainment, it was also used as a trade show facility, but when the World Trade and Convention Centre was built in 1985, the Metro Centre began to be used less for trade shows.

"Many tenants became tired of ... addressing an arena every time," Ferguson said. **RICHARD WOODBURY**

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# Cheers to craft beer revolution

**RICHARD WOODBURY**  
For Metro

Downtown Halifax has always been known for its abundance of watering holes, but there is a change occurring to the delight of beer lovers since bars are catering to people's increasingly complex beer tastes.

"More people are demanding craft beers," said Greg Nash, the brewer at both the Hart & Thistle Gastropub and Brewery, and the Rockbottom Brewpub. "Almost any bar you go to is going to have at least one or two local beers on tap. Ten years ago, you wouldn't see that."

He said this "uprising of (the) craft beer" trend is something he noticed in the United States 20 years ago, which was where he went to brewing school and got his start in the industry.

This trend means connoisseurs are getting to try beers that are more exotic than mass-produced offerings. A prime example is the Hop Mess Monster v4.0, a beer



The Stubborn Goat Gastropub carries more than a dozen beers on tap. RICHARD WOODBURY/FOR METRO

brewed by Nash that was unveiled at the Hart & Thistle in late October.

Nash posts the specs about his creations on blogs he maintains, such as the types of hops and malts used. His Hart & Thistle blog has had more than 66,000 page views.

Some establishments that have opened up in recent

months are catering specifically to those who are hopping mad. The Stubborn Goat Gastropub on Grafton Street carries 78 types of bottled beer and offers 15 beers on tap.

"As the beer runs out, we'll bring in something comparable, maybe something a little different (for the bottled beers)," said co-owner

Geir Simensen, adding that four lines will be constantly changing for its draft beer lineup.

Another option is the Stillwell Beer Bar, "the place to go for great craft beers from Nova Scotia's flourishing craft brewing community and beyond," said the website of the Barrington Street bar.

## Changing of the guard met with optimism

For years, Halifax's downtown has been the Rodney Dangerfield of Halifax's neighbourhoods — it didn't get any respect from city council. With the new council in place, there is a feeling the concerns of the downtown are finally being heard.

"There is definitely a much more positive feeling about city hall, specifically over the last year," said Paul MacKinnon, the executive director of the Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC).

He feels there is a genuine shift in how council regards the downtown.

"If I go back 10 years, you had debates at council about whether to invest in the downtown," MacKinnon said, adding he feels those days are behind us.

This is good news given that a city's downtown is regarded as its economic and cultural heartbeat.

MacKinnon isn't the

only one pleased with the new council.

"I'm just finding it is a more open, more transparent city hall these days," said Nancy Tissington, the executive director of the Spring Garden Area Business Association (SGABA).

In particular, Tissington is pleased with how she "can literally pick up the phone and talk to" Mayor Mike Savage about things such as vagrancy and panhandling.

"We're sensing that he's looking at ... policy changes or perhaps looking at how as a municipality they can help us out in that area."

Along with the increased confidence in council, there is also more optimism about the state of the downtown.

"On the development side, things are amazing," said MacKinnon, pointing to projects such as the new library and convention centre.

RICHARD WOODBURY



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DOWNTOWN  
HALIFAX







Former London Knights forward Nazem Kadri fights Columbus' Matt Calvert during the Leafs' 6-0 loss on Monday night. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Leafs look to show it's not all been luck

**NHL.** Coming off blowout by Columbus, Toronto prepares to face high-powered Penguins

The question never seemed to go away.

Were the Toronto Maple Leafs good or "lucky" to be at 14-9-1 and fourth overall in the Eastern Conference? Begrudgingly, the Leafs may now be willing to allow the "luck" part to enter the equation.

"I think we're a little fortunate," Nazem Kadri said Tuesday as the Leafs regrouped from Monday night's 6-0 thrashing from Columbus.

"But at the same time, we're

## Olympic look-ahead

The Maple Leafs' gain may end up being Team Canada's pain.

- Penguins and Team USA coach Dan Bylsma likes what he sees in the pairing of Phil Kessel and James van Riemsdyk.

working on it and we're coming out with wins. Everyone is imagining what we'd be like if we put together 60 minutes of Toronto Maple Leaf hockey."

That consistency has eluded the Leafs much of the season.

Toronto ranks third-worst in the NHL in both shots-for per

- "One or two practices and you're going to play an Olympic hockey game, so you've got to find some kind of continuity somewhere on the ice," said Bylsma, who'll see the duo up close on Wednesday night when the Penguins host the Leafs.

game (26.2) and shots-against per game (35.6). That has given way to concern that the club's record is largely a reflection of the success of its goalies.

Part of the Leafs' formula for success included some excellent work on special teams early in the season. But Toron-

to, which had one of the NHL's better goal differentials earlier this month, has levelled out now (63 goals for, 59 against).

Coach Randy Carlyle alluded to the "lucky" theme that has hovered over the club.

"It's been stated numerous times that we've been lucky ... our goaltending and our special teams have been winning us hockey games when the shot clock was lopsided," Carlyle said. "And we haven't been ready enough and that's a sign that we have to change some things we are doing to prepare and implement them on a daily basis."

Carlyle said he's heard "other coaches describe us as a rush team ... we don't want to be that." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## NHL

### Coyotes waive Klesla in blue-line shakeup

The Phoenix Coyotes have waived Rostislav Klesla, once considered one of their top defencemen.

If no team claims Klesla by Wednesday, he will be assigned to Portland of the AHL.

Klesla had been one of Phoenix's core defencemen after arriving in the desert in a 2011 trade with Columbus. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

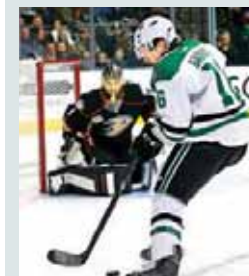
## NHL

### Stars finally give fans a win in Dallas

Cody Eakin, Stephane Robidas and Ryan Garbutt scored in a 53-second span of the third period, and the Dallas Stars beat the Pacific Division-leading Anaheim Ducks 6-3 on Tuesday night for their first home win in more than month.

The Stars trailed 2-1 before the three-goal flurry against Jonas Hiller. Antoine Roussel scored twice for Dallas, and Alex Chiasson added an empty-net goal in the final minute.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Ryan Garbutt prepares to shoot on Ducks goalie Jonas Hiller on Tuesday night in Dallas.

GETTY IMAGES

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# Burleson looking to deliver W's in Detroit

**NFL.** Freshly returned receiver reignites Lions' 1-2 punch with pass catcher Johnson

Nate Burleson caught a touchdown pass in his first game back from an arm injury, then held the ball aloft like it was a freshly made pizza.

"I buckled my seatbelt first," the Detroit receiver said.

The quirky celebration was classic Burleson — and his return after missing two months following a car crash was one of the few bright spots in the Lions' 24-21 loss to Tampa Bay on Sunday. Burleson broke his left arm in the one-car accident in late September, saying he was distracted by pizza boxes sliding off the front passenger seat before his car hit a wall.

So after scoring a touchdown in the second quarter



Lions receiver Nate Burleson celebrates his touchdown against the Bucs on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

against the Buccaneers, Burleson pretended he was delivering a pizza in the end zone.

The Lions hope Burleson can provide more than just laughs as the season draws to a close and he looks ready to contribute. The 32-year-old receiver caught seven passes for 77 yards Sunday, giving

Detroit some much-needed receiving depth for quarterback Matthew Stafford. Afterward, Burleson seemed no worse for wear.

"I came out of the game OK. I was good," Burleson said Tuesday. "My arm held up. It was more just soreness from getting hit. I felt like I was in an accident all over again. It felt good, though, actually."

Burleson has 26 catches in the four games he's played this season, enabling the Lions to rely a bit less on star receiver Calvin Johnson. Detroit still lost after turning the ball over five times, but the Lions will be back on track if they can beat Green Bay on Thursday.

The annual Thanksgiving showcase hasn't been pleasant for Detroit. The Lions have lost nine straight times on the holiday.

Detroit (6-5) is tied for first in the NFC North with Chicago. Green Bay is right behind at 5-5-1. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



## Riders roll through Regina with Grey Cup

Saskatchewan head coach Corey Chamblin poses with the Grey Cup during the Roughriders' championship parade through Regina on Tuesday afternoon. LIAM RICHARDS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

### MLB

## New criticism of Selig added to A-Rod's lawsuit

Alex Rodriguez's lawyers updated his lawsuit against Major League Baseball and Bud Selig, adding new criticism of the commissioner for not testifying in the union's grievance to overturn the 211-game suspension given to the Yankees star. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Baseball Hall of Fame

## Maddux headlines new hopefuls

Four-time Cy Young Award winner Greg Maddux, two-time winner Tom Glavine and two-time AL MVP Frank Thomas are among 19 newcomers on this year's Hall of Fame ballot, joining steroid-tainted holdovers Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa.

Ballots are due by Dec. 31, and results will be announced Jan. 8.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### NBA

## Raps can't get by on two-man show

DeMar DeRozan poured in 27 points while Kyle Lowry had 24, but the two had little help from their Toronto Raptors teammates in a 102-100 loss to the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday.

Andray Blatche had 24 to top the injury-depleted Nets (4-10), who came into the game on a five-game losing streak and with the third-worst record in the NBA. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### NBA

## Lakers' win streak runs into Wall

John Wall stayed hot with 31 points and nine assists and Nene had a career-high 30 to carry the Washington Wizards to a 116-111 victory over Los Angeles on Tuesday night that broke the Lakers' three-game winning streak.

Wall scored more than 30 points for the third straight game for the first time in his career, with his 13 fourth-quarter points coming in the final 4:40 to help Washington hold off Los Angeles.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Skiing. Lindsey Vonn eyes return from ailing knee at Lake Louise

The new Beaver Creek downhill course features a gliding section near the start for a skier to drop into a tuck and build speed.

There are technical turns in the middle, followed by a steep part — maybe the steepest on the World Cup circuit — and then a giant jump at the finish.

An ideal course for Lindsey Vonn — if she were here, of course.

The four-time overall World Cup champion was supposed to make her return this week from a serious right-knee injury she suffered in a crash last February. But after hurting her knee again in a training mishap last week, Vonn will sit out to rest and rehab because everything she does is with an eye toward the Sochi Games, which are less than three months away.

Her fellow competitors spent the morning learning the nuances of a challenging course called "Raptor" in downhill training on Tuesday, with Lara Gut of Switzerland posting the fastest time of one minute, 43.42 seconds.

No Vonn now, but there is a chance she could be in the



Lindsey Vonn addresses the media in Vail, Colo., on Nov. 8. GETTY IMAGES

starting gate on Dec. 6 in Lake Louise, Alta., a venue that's treated her so well that it's playfully dubbed "Lake Lindsey."

At least, U.S. women's head coach Alex Hoedlmoser remains hopeful that Vonn's ailing right knee will be ready for a return to racing in time for Lake Louise.

"It's all going to be determined on how her knee feels," Hoedlmoser said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It's up to her. She's the only one who knows how her knee feels." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### NHL

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	24	16	6	2	68	46	34
Tampa Bay	24	15	8	1	72	61	31
Toronto	24	14	9	1	66	60	29
Detroit	25	11	7	7	63	70	29
Montreal	24	13	9	2	64	51	28
Ottawa	24	9	11	4	68	77	22
Florida	25	7	13	5	56	81	19
Buffalo	25	5	19	1	44	79	11

##### METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	25	15	9	1	72	58	31
Washington	24	12	10	2	72	68	26
NY Rangers	24	12	12	0	48	59	24
New Jersey	24	9	10	5	50	58	23
Carolina	24	9	10	5	49	67	23
Philadelphia	23	10	11	2	50	56	22
Columbus	24	9	12	3	62	71	21
NY Islanders	24	8	13	3	68	82	19

##### Tuesday's result

Dallas 6 Anaheim 3

##### Monday's results

Winnipeg 3 New Jersey 1  
Boston 4 Pittsburgh 3 (OT)  
Columbus 6 Toronto 0  
Florida 3 Philadelphia 1  
Tampa Bay 5 NY Rangers 0  
Nashville 4 Phoenix 2  
St. Louis 3 Minnesota 0  
Chicago 5 Edmonton 1  
Los Angeles 3 Vancouver 2 (OT)

##### SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Phg	13	18	31
Steen, STL	19	10	29
Zetterberg, Det	10	18	28
Ovechkin, Wash	20	7	27
Getzlaf, Ana	13	14	27
Tavares, NYI	10	17	27
Malkin, Phg	4	23	27
Kane, Chi	13	13	26
Perry, Ana	13	12	25
H. Sedn, Van	7	18	25
Little, Win	12	12	24
Toews, Chi	12	12	24
St. Louis, TBL	10	14	24
Karlsson, ott	7	17	24
Benn, Dal	7	17	24

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	25	17	4	4	92	71	38
St. Louis	23	17	3	3	82	50	37
Colorado	22	17	5	0	69	45	34
Minnesota	25	15	6	4	64	58	34
Dallas	23	12	9	2	67	68	26
Nashville	24	12	10	2	56	69	26
Winnipeg	26	11	11	4	69	76	26

##### PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	27	17	7	3	83	71	37
San Jose	23	15	3	5	79	52	35
Los Angeles	25	16	6	3	67	53	35
Phoenix	24	14	6	4	80	78	32
Vancouver	26	12	9	5	67	68	29
Calgary	23	8	11	4	64	84	20
Edmonton	25	7	16	2	65	89	16

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

##### Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Nashville at Columbus, 7 p.m.  
Winnipeg at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.  
Ottawa at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Montreal at Buffalo, 7 p.m.  
Carolina at New Jersey, 7 p.m.  
NY Rangers at Florida, 7:30 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.  
Toronto at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.  
Boston at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.  
Phoenix at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
St. Louis at Colorado, 9 p.m.  
Chicago at Calgary, 10 p.m.  
Los Angeles at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Backstrom, Wash	5	19	24
Thornton, SJ	2	22	24
Stankos, TBL	14	9	23
Seguin, Dal	12	11	23
Datsyuk, Det	12	11	23
Marleau, SJ	11	12	23
Couture, SJ	8	15	23
Kopitar, LA	7	16	23
Ryan, ott	11	11	22
Parise, Min	11	11	22
Kunitz, Phg	11	11	22

Not including last night's games

### MLS

#### MLS CUP

Saturday, Dec. 7

Sporting KC vs. Real Salt Lake, 4 p.m.

### NBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	13	1	.929	—
Miami	11	3	.786	2
Atlanta	8	7	.533	5 1/2
Toronto	6	8	.429	7
Charlotte	7	8	.467	6 1/2
Chicago	6	7	.462	6 1/2
Detroit	6	8	.429	7
Washington	6	8	.429	7
Philadelphia	6	9	.400	7 1/2
Boston	6	10	.375	8
Orlando	5	9	.357	8
Cleveland	4	10	.286	9
Brooklyn	4	10	.286	9
New York	3	10	.231	9 1/2
Milwaukee	2	11	.154	10 1/2

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	13	1	.929	—
Portland	13	2	.867	1/2
Oklahoma City	9	3	.750	3
L.A. Clippers	10	5	.667	3 1/2
Houston	10	5	.667	3 1/2
Golden State	9	6	.600	4 1/2
Dallas	9	6	.600	4 1/2
Denver	7	6	.538	5 1/2
Memphis	7	7	.500	6
Minnesota	8	8	.500	6
Phoenix	7	7	.500	6
L.A. Lakers	7	8	.467	6 1/2
New Orleans	6	8	.429	7
Sacramento	4	9	.308	8 1/2
Utah	2	14	.125	12

##### Tuesday's results

Washington 116 L.A. Lakers 111  
Brooklyn 102 Toronto 100  
Orlando 109 Atlanta 92  
Golden State 102 New Orleans 101

##### Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Indiana at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
Memphis at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.  
Miami at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.  
Atlanta at Houston, 8 p.m.  
Washington at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.  
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.  
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Golden State at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Portland at Phoenix, 9 p.m.  
New York at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.



# 2014 BMW 4-Series



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

**Review.** Sometimes you need to break away to really come into your own

**MALCOLM GUNN**  
wheelbasemedia.com

It's a breakup of a different sort.

BMW's newest two-door model has separated from its former 3 Series sedan counterpart, changed its name, undergone a major facelift and emerged as one of the more attractive models in the automaker's lineup.

The 4 Series represents part of BMW's master strategy of re-branding the coupe and convertible lineup using even-number nomenclature exclusively (2, 4 and 6), while the sedan range sticks with odd numbers (3, 5 and 7).

For the 2015 model year the current 1 Series vehicles will be rebooted as 2 Series coupes and convertibles. The newly christened 4 Series appears to have strayed only slightly from the previous 3 Series, but is a bit wider and longer.

The changes that have occurred in the 4-Series lower the car's centre of gravity and, along with a number of structural and suspension adjustments specific to it, are aimed at providing a more sporting experience along with creating a sharper personal-luxury image.

Don't look for any dramatic changes when it comes to the 4 Series powertrains that are already in use in a number of BMWs. The 428i uses a turbo-

charged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine that cranks out 241 horsepower and 260 pound-feet of torque.

Moving up to the 435i puts you in control of a 3.0-litre six-cylinder engine that generates 300 horsepower and 300 pound-feet of torque. By BMW's stopwatch, the 428i will propel the coupe to 60 mph in 6.0 seconds, while the stronger 435i gets it done in 5.3 seconds. To help conserve fuel, there's a standard stop/start function that shuts off the engine when the car is stopped, which of course saves fuel.

An eight-speed automatic is the base choice with either engine, but you can swap it out for a six-speed manual gearbox, should you be so inclined. You can also equip each edition with BMW's x-Drive all-wheel-drive option that's probably a wise move in this country where winter is a fact of life.

From the driver and front passenger's perspective there's little to differentiate the 4 Series Coupe from its former sedan mate. The controls and switches are legible to a fault and convey a keen sense of quality.

Both front and rear-seat riders (there's room for just two in the split-folding back seat) sit on standard Sensatec (faux leather) upholstery and have ample views out the generously sized front and side windows. That's in sharp contrast to cars such as the Audi TT coupe.

Selecting a base 428i will set you back \$47,000 (\$57,000 for the 435i) and includes premium items such as climate

## 2014 BMW 4-Series

• **Type.** Two-door, rear-/all-wheel-drive four-passenger coupe

• **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (241); 3.0-litre DOHC I6, turbocharged (300)

• **Transmissions.** Eight-speed automatic; six-speed manual (opt.)

• **Base price (incl. destination).** \$47,000

## Design

Compared to the 3 Series sedan, the roofline is lower by about five centimetres and the ride height has been reduced by about 1.5 centimetres. The fenders also bulge more than the sedan's, and the space between the front and rear axles has increased a bit

## Optional add-ons

Following those choices there are a number of available packages that feature items such as a navigation, sport suspension, heated front seats and steering wheel, automatic high beams, rearview camera and a head-up display that projects speed, fuel and direction info onto the windshield.



The interior is colour co-ordinated, futuristic and aesthetically pleasing.

## Compare



**1** Audi A5  
Base price: \$46,100



**2** Cadillac CTS coupe  
Base price: \$44,850



**3** Mercedes-Benz C-class  
Base price: \$46,800

control with memory settings, power moonroof, eight-way power front seats, rain-sensing wipers and run-flat tires, which gets rid of a traditional spare.

However, that's just the warm-up. Each model can be upgraded with Luxury Line, Sport Line and M Sport trims, with the latter including an aerodynamic body kit, sporty 18-inch wheels (17-inches are standard) and well-bolstered sport seats covered in pre-

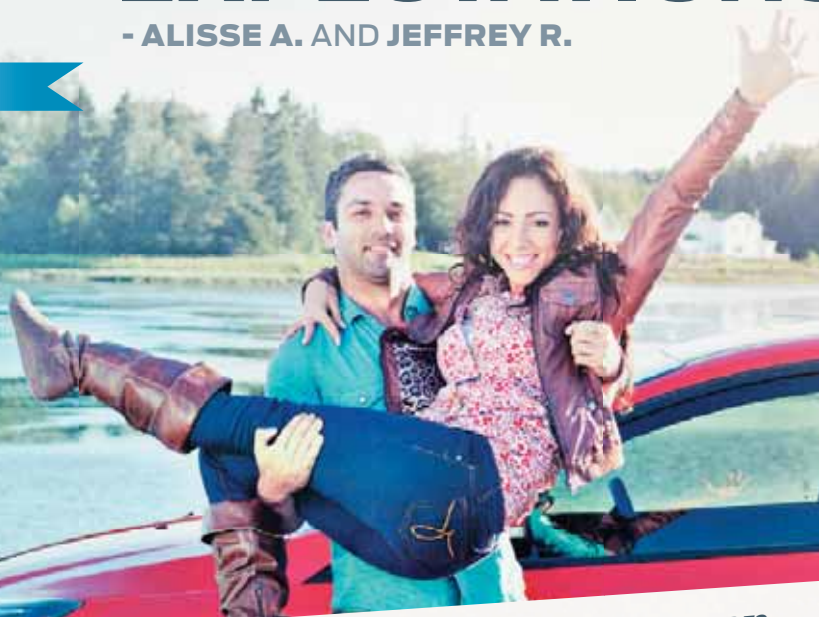
mium leather.

Historically, BMW purchasers have had no problem adding these and other extra-cost toppings (even selecting metallic paint is optional) and that will likely hold true with the sleek and sassy 4 Series coupe and soon-to-follow hardtop convertible. After all, combining significant luxury, performance and style is what really makes sets these cars and their owners apart.





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# Tech-ing time to settle, latest in-car gadgetry not as smart as you think

**Problems.** Complaints coming from all major demographics unhappy with infotainment and connectivity within their vehicles



**AUTO PILOT**  
Mike Goetz  
drive@metronews.ca

Vehicles are turning into smart phones and that's having a profound effect on vehicle interiors, and in many cases, the driver's dissatisfaction with such interiors.

And the complaints are not just coming from grumpy old men who would rather trowel grout than tweet.

According to consumer research conducted by J.D. Power and Associates, all major

demographic bulges (boomers, Gen X, Gen Y), are having issues with the quality and design of some of the connectivity and infotainment systems in today's vehicles. In fact, the younger generations are harder to please because they self-identify as tech-savvy, multi-tasking experts and expect instant action and satisfaction with all of their techie devices.

It's a case of, "we like all the technology, but it's not working as brilliantly and easily as advertised." And we really want these things to work, because we're spending more and more time in our vehicles.

Mike VanNieuwkyk, Executive Director, Global Quality Practice, J.D. Power, recently held fourth on this "in-car experience" topic at the 2013 TalkAUTO conference in Toronto, and noted that, these days, more malfunctions are happening in the navigation and infotainment areas than anywhere else on the vehicle.



The 2015 Audi A3 Sedan is a WiFi hot spot and will be the first to offer 4GT LTE service inside a vehicle. PHOTO: AUDI

In addition to outright malfunctions, his firm also identified a large source of irritants that is more related to bad design than it is to things breaking down. One irritant group

was characterized as "soft inadequacies, where needs are addressed but not as preferred" (I only wish I made that up). Another irritant group is tech stuff that is just misaligned with ex-

pectations.

A lot of voice command issues fall into these two groups. VanNieuwkyk said customers complain about the technology profusely, but rank it only second to "touch screen" as the preferred way to control their navigation systems: "Even though many think voice command is terrible, they still want it," said VanNieuwkyk. "They're waiting for someone to do it right."

After VanNieuwkyk's report, several automobile dealers assembled on stage to discuss current and various automotive industry trends from their perspective, and it was soon apparent that dealerships are finding themselves on the sharp end of the stick, when it comes to customers' frustrations and learning curves with in-car technologies. Even though they didn't say it outright, you got the sense they felt the automakers weren't doing their share, in

educating their customers on how all these complex systems work.

But the dealers had some really good ideas about how to deliver some of the training and information customers need. Because there is just not enough time to demonstrate how everything works when customers take their cars home for the first time, they had to get creative. One dealer conducts a "second delivery" right at the customer's home. Another encourages salespeople to stay in touch with customers 24/7 via smart phones. Another thought that owner manuals should be converted to a series of short videos, which could be uploaded to youtube or available as smart phone apps. Another dealer was contemplating something like the Apple Genius Bar.

I hope these ideas work, and I hope grumpy old men will always feel free to express themselves.

## Funny how used market can set new car prices

**Key factor.** Automakers releasing a new model will refer to amount of secondhand vehicles available before putting price tag on it

JILL MCINTOSH  
Drive@metronews.ca

There are numerous factors that go into the price of a new car, including how much it costs to build it, how many options it has, and if it's imported, the rate of currency exchange.

But there's also an important consideration that you may not realize: the number of used cars that will be on the market when that new model goes on sale.

"New-vehicle prices have come down in recent years, and are actually below where they were in 2007," says Carlos Gomes, senior economist and auto industry specialist for Scotiabank. "You'll start to see a change next year, and used cars

### The raw numbers

- **2013.** Canadians will buy approximately 1.73 million new vehicles in 2013.

- **Imports.** Canada normally imports between 150,000 and 200,000 used vehicles from the U.S. each year, but that number has dropped due to very low new-vehicle sales following the 2008 economic crash.

vehicles that were leased annually," Gomes says. "That virtually collapsed and has been slow to recover, and a result, we're having a very significant shortage of used vehicles."

When used-car prices are high, and therefore closer to the cost of a brand-new car, many buyers are likely to spend a little extra to get the new one.

Manufacturers try to keep the difference as small as possible, either by setting lower prices or by offering incentives, so that buyers will choose the new model.

The automakers continually monitor annual car sales and leases, which gives them some idea of how many vehicles will enter the resale market in the future, and how that number will affect the price of used vehicles overall.

"Vehicle affordability is at one of the best levels ever, so it's a great time to buy a vehicle," Gomes says. "However, keep in mind that improved emissions technologies will start to be phased into vehicle prices as well, so expect that the trend of low prices on new cars is likely not here to stay."



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*ZOOM-ZOOM*



GT model with Technology Package shown. Certain features available only on 2014 Mazda3 GS and GT models.



# The problem with drinking and driving is the mourning after

**On the road.** Before tipping back a few this holiday season, make sure you plan ahead to ensure you get home safe and sound

Keep safe and sober on the roads this season

It doesn't seem to matter how often we talk about the

dangers of drinking and driving. Someone, somewhere, isn't listening.

According to statistics provided by the Ontario Provincial Police, impaired driving is the leading criminal cause of death in Canada. And sadly, arrests for impaired driving hit a year-long peak during the final weeks of the year.

For those who haven't noticed, the penalties for drinking and driving are considerably tougher, thanks to

## Tips for season

Convertini offers a simple tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

- **Plan ahead.** If you're likely to consume alcohol at an event or party, don't take your vehicle.

groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Even

for first-time offenders, defending a drunk-driving arrest is expensive.

"Everyone recognizes that the holiday season is a great time to reconnect with family and friends and celebrate with a few drinks," says Mauro Convertini, an insurance expert at Aviva Canada. "It's important, though, to have a plan in place to get yourself and your loved ones home safely."

NEWS CANADA



You can expect increased police presence on the roads during the holiday season. ISTOCK PHOTOS

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## Horoscopes

### Aries

March 21 - April 20

Your critical thinking may not be as sharp as it usually is, so be careful what you allow yourself to believe. There are a lot of strange ideas in the world. You also started a few.

### Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Quick decisions are not always good and the planets warn that you should reserve judgment on important issues unless you are absolutely sure of your stance. Even then, err on the side of caution.

### Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Stop worrying about things over which you have no control. As the Sun moves through your opposite sign, there are a lot of things others say and do that you cannot influence. It's no big deal.

### Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You could find yourself at a loose end today, uncertain of your next move. Who says you have to move at all? Why not let life come to you for a change. You don't have to be a go-getter all the time.

### Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

It may be tempting to take a risk today but the planets warn you will most likely regret it. There is only one thing you can be sure of at the moment and that is you cannot really be sure of anything.

### Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you are smart, you will fight the impulse to take a shortcut. If you try to cut corners, you will be asking for trouble and trouble is not the kind of guest to turn down an invitation.

### Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You need realize that some kind of scheme is not in the least bit practical. It may be a blow to your ego but there are other useful things you could be doing with your time.

### Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

If you poke your nose into a friend's personal issues you will get no thanks for it at all, no matter how well-intentioned or useful your advice may be. Some people need to learn from their own mistakes.

### Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

There are changes taking place in your life and almost all of them are good, so go with the flow and don't be scared to move in a direction you have not been before.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

There are so many interesting things going on in the world around you that you won't be able to focus on one thing for any length of time. That's OK. Variety is needed to get your creative juices flowing.

### Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Nothing in life stays the same for long so if something (or someone) goes out of your life over the next 24 hours, bid it a fond farewell and start looking for something better to replace it.

### Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Work-related matters must be handled with care, especially if you are one of those Pisceans who tends to be a bit reckless in your attitude towards people in positions of power.

SALLY BROMPTON

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down

### Across

1. Posh title
6. Much, slangy-ly
11. Hat
14. Trees: White poplar
15. Off-Broadway theatrical awards
16. Have payments
17. Bungle
18. Prescription warning, \_\_\_ directed
19. Campaigned
20. Paving stone
21. Perish
22. Newfoundland's official bird, Atlantic \_\_\_

24. Way out there
26. "Indoors \_\_\_?" (Summer eater's query)

27. Drenched: 2 wds.
29. Ballotings
31. Ms. Rimes
32. Siestas
33. Fasten to the bulletin board

37. Do the tango
38. Mel of baseball
39. Capital of India, New \_\_\_

40. Mr. Hersher
41. "Je ne \_\_\_ quoi."
42. Remixer/producer, William \_\_\_
43. Prefix to 'dontist' (Braces giver)
45. Horrified
46. \_\_\_-\_\_\_ agent (Former employee at The Company)
48. Famous casino in Las Vegas, Golden \_\_\_

50. Country star Dwight
51. CSI evidence
52. Saran \_\_\_
55. Keyboard key
56. Country classic: "By the \_\_\_ Get to Phoenix"
58. LED = Light-Emitting \_\_\_

59. Plum part
60. Put on \_\_\_ (Fake it)
61. \_\_\_ in the air (That's still uncertain)
62. Ski hill machine, \_\_\_-Cat
63. Big bags
64. Sailing: 2 wds.

65. Modern
66. 1963 The Kingsmen hit, when doubled
67. Calgary Tower's dazzling rotating feature: 2 wds.
68. Fasten
69. Some spouts spots
70. Guarantee
71. 1921: Greek island

72. Title in Turkey
73. Reddish-rose dye
74. \_\_\_-\_\_\_ knife
75. Segments
76. Slangy positives
77. \_\_\_ (Together, in music)
78. "Shoop" by Salt-n-\_\_\_
79. Fleetwood \_\_\_
80. Wee width

81. Actor/rapper, Snoop \_\_\_
82. Endurance
83. Lariats
84. Title in Turkey
85. Reddish-rose dye
86. \_\_\_-\_\_\_ knife
87. Segments
88. Slangy positives
89. \_\_\_ (Together, in music)
90. "Shoop" by Salt-n-\_\_\_
91. Fleetwood \_\_\_
92. Wee width

### Down

1. Chef Emeril Lagasse's sounds!
2. Classic comic strip, \_\_\_ the Agent
3. Dermatology: Type of injectable filler
4. Functional landmark in Halifax since 1803: 3 wds.

5. Modern
6. 1963 The Kingsmen hit, when doubled
7. Calgary Tower's dazzling rotating feature: 2 wds.
8. Fasten
9. Some spouts spots
10. Guarantee
11. 1921: Greek island

12. Expect
13. Sean of movies
14. Banned pesticide
15. Canadian hockey play-by-play broadcasting legend, b.1902 - d.1985: 2 wds.
16. Reality star Ms. Leakes
17. Canadian shoe store
18. Shakespeare tragedy, King \_\_\_
19. Selects
20. Mr. Wyle
21. Seabird
22. Vitalities
23. "Knight Rider" car
24. Actor/rapper, Snoop \_\_\_
25. Endurance
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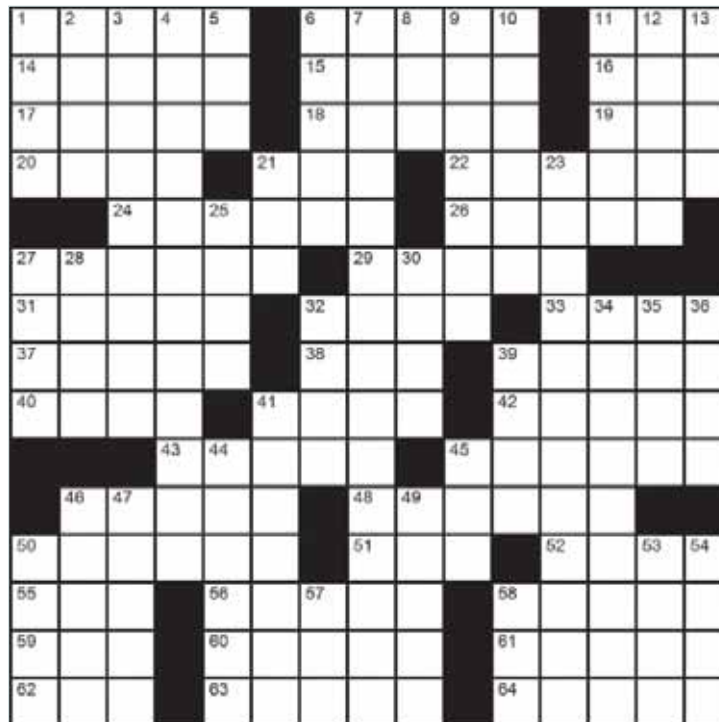
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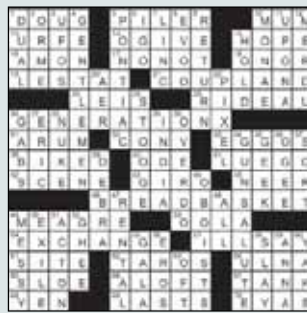
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164. \_\_\_ (Together, in music)
165. "Shoop" by Salt-n-\_\_\_
166. Fleetwood \_\_\_
167. Wee width



See today's answers at [metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers).  
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

## Yesterday's Crossword



## Sudoku

### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

## Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

13°/-1°

Rain

100%

Thursday

12°/-5°

Showers

60%

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